

Union Calendar No. 60

114th Congress, 1st Session - - - - - House Report 114-82

OVERSIGHT PLANS FOR ALL HOUSE COMMITTEES

BY THE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Required by House Rule X, Clause 2(d)(2))



APRIL 15, 2015.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on
the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with clause 2(d)(2) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the oversight plans of each standing committee.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

Union Calendar No. 60

114TH CONGRESS <i>1st Session</i>	}	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	{	REPORT 114-82
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OVERSIGHT PLANS FOR ALL HOUSE COMMITTEES

APRIL 15, 2015.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. JASON CHAFFETZ, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted the following

R E P O R T

OVERSIGHT IN THE 114TH CONGRESS

[The oversight plans of all House committees follow:]

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

FEBRUARY 6, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Pursuant to House Rule X, clause 2(d)(1), I submit the following plan to fulfill the General Oversight Responsibilities reporting requirements. This outline was prepared in consultation with the Ranking Member, was presented to the full Committee for its consideration, and is now offered for your consideration relative to your responsibilities under the Rules.

The attached agenda constitutes the oversight plan of the Committee on Agriculture for the 114th Congress. It includes areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share subject matter interest. If you have any questions regarding this outline, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 114th Congress. This plan was prepared in consultation with the Ranking Member and was presented to the full committee for its consideration.

The committee and its subcommittees expect to exercise appropriate oversight activity with regard to the issues listed below. In general, the committee intends to identify programs that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated or more appropriately administered by State or local governments for possible cuts or elimination. In addition to the list below, the Committee will conduct any other general oversight as appropriate and necessary. The committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share subject matter interest.

The committee expects to exercise appropriate oversight activity with regard to the following issues:

2014 FARM BILL AND CURRENT AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

- Review the current state of the U.S. farm economy;
- Review the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review programs for waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement;
- Review the state of credit conditions and availability in rural America;
- Review the effect of weather conditions on crop production;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Warehouse Act;
- Review of market situation, including effect of crop reports and projections;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act;
- Review USDA's implementation of the Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act of 2004;
- Review how Administrative Pay-Go is affecting Department actions;
- Review discretionary actions by USDA that are not directly authorized by legislation; and

ENERGY

- Assess energy programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review administration of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP);
- Review activities funded by the Biomass Research and Development Act (BRDA) and input from the external BRDA Advisory Board;

- Review availability of agriculture and forestry feedstocks for renewable energy production;
- Review current status of research on energy crops and feedstocks;
- Review Rural Utility Service (RUS) electric loan program;
- Review electricity reliability in rural America;
- Review current provisions in existing law that support agriculture-based energy production and use;
- Review the implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS);
- Review renewable fuel programs and their effect on agriculture; and

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Review the effect of regulatory activities by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its effect on agriculture productivity;
- Review the effect of regulatory activities carried out pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or any proposed legislative changes to such Act, on agricultural producers;
- Review the effect of the Administration's regulatory activity relative to methyl bromide on production of agriculture in the U.S.;
- Review budget and program activities of the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS);
- Review implementation of all of USDA's conservation programs;
- Review USDA's implementation of the conservation compliance provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review EPA's jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its effect on U.S. agriculture;
- Review of potential effects of EPA's Clean Air Act (CAA) regulatory program on U.S. agriculture;
- Review ongoing discussions and potential consequences for American agriculture under the United Nations Climate Change Conference;
- Review EPA's implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Pesticide Registration Improvement/Renewal Act (PRIA III);
- Review the effect of litigation and rulemaking concerning FIFRA, ESA, CAA, CWA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) to evaluate these statutes' effects on agricultural operations;
- Review the EPA's regulatory actions in regard to pesticide evaluations;
- Review EPA's regulation of Animal Feeding Operations;
- Review Total Maximum Daily Load strategies and effects on production agriculture; and

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- Review USDA's implementation of crop insurance provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review the role and effectiveness of Federal Crop Insurance;

- Review USDA's and the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) administration and oversight of Federal Crop Insurance;
- Review the availability of crop insurance as a risk management tool;
- Review the adequacy and availability of risk management tools for the livestock and dairy industries;
- Review USDA's activities established to identify and reduce crop insurance waste, fraud, and abuse;
- Review USDA's crop insurance rating methodology and management of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) process;
- Review RMA's yield and revenue protection crop insurance products;
- Review RMA's progress in approving crop insurance products for underserved commodities; and

IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE VII OF THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

- In its review of rulemakings required by Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111-203)(Dodd-Frank Act), the Committee will continue to ensure:
 - (1) The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rulemaking process is transparent and that meaningful comment is accepted and appropriately reviewed;
 - (2) An adequate cost-benefit analysis is performed by the CFTC for each proposed or finalized rule;
 - (3) The CFTC and SEC properly coordinate with both domestic and international financial regulators;
 - (4) Past exemptive relief orders, also referred to as "no action letters," issued by the CFTC and SEC provide the proper relief for market participants; and
 - (5) Any final or proposed regulations have not harmed or adversely effected the U.S. economy or financial markets, including the effect on jobs and competitiveness;
- Examine how Title VII rulemakings have affected U.S. market structure;
 - Examine the developing effect of CFTC, SEC, and Prudential Regulator regulations, such as the imposition of new margin and capital requirements, and how they affect the ability of many "end-users" to utilize swaps to hedge against legitimate business risks;
 - Examine the level of coordination between U.S. and international regulators for potential effects on U.S. financial institutions compared to their foreign counterparts;
 - Examine the feasibility of timetables established by the Dodd-Frank Act in building the data, technology and connectivity necessary to meet regulatory objectives; and

THE U.S. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION AND OVERSIGHT OF THE DERIVATIVES MARKETS

- Review the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC);
- Review the growing consolidation and internationalization of futures exchange trading;

- Review market machinations for exchange traded energy and agricultural futures products;
- Review enforcement and oversight capabilities of the CFTC both domestically and internationally;
- Continue to examine how the CFTC and futures industry as a whole has addressed the MF Global and PFGBest bankruptcies from both an enforcement and regulatory reform standpoint to ensure that proper remedial action is taken to prevent future losses to segregated funds of customers;
- In light of the Commodity Exchange Act statutory authorization of the CFTC which expired at the end of FY2013, the Committee will continue to examine all sectors of the U.S. derivatives and futures markets, including, but not limited to: exchange or swap execution facility trading; the roles of dealers, inter-dealer brokers, data repositories, and clearinghouses; trade and price reporting; and proposals aimed at protecting the segregated funds of futures customers;
- Continue to examine the ongoing investigation and enforcement action by the CFTC and other federal regulators with respect to the manipulation of international financial benchmarks;
- Review all operations of the CFTC, including, but not limited to: a continued examination of whether the cost-benefit analysis required by section 15a of the CEA is adequate with respect to proposed and finalized rules; the efficiency of internal Commission actions; and the enforcement and oversight capabilities of the CFTC both domestically and internationally; and

AGRICULTURE TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID

- Review domestic subsidies and protection currently applied by agricultural product producing countries around the world;
- Review ongoing multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations (including World Trade Organization (WTO) accession agreements) to assess their potential effect on U.S. agriculture;—
- Review implementation of existing trade agreements and commitments as well as proposed trade agreements and commitments to determine:
 - (1) whether they are consistent with current U.S. law;
 - (2) whether they will promote economic development in rural areas of the U.S.;
 - (3) their effect or potential effect on current production of import sensitive agricultural commodities, and on exports of U.S. agricultural products;
 - (4) their effect or potential effect on the overall competitiveness of the U.S. agricultural sector, including the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products; and
 - (5) whether the agreements provide adequate, enforceable provisions to minimize non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports;
- Monitor existing trade agreements to ensure trading partners are meeting obligations and enforcing trade commitments;
- Review agricultural export programs to determine how well they are promoting the interests of U.S. agriculture and examine proposals to improve, modify or expand such programs;
- Review U.S. food aid programs to determine their effect or potential effect on the reduction of world hunger. In particular, the

committee will examine the potential effect of trade negotiations on the effectiveness of U.S. food aid programs;

- Review monitoring and evaluation activities carried out by USDA and USAID;
- Review sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers and other technical barriers to U.S. agricultural exports and examine USDA efforts to eliminate such barriers; and

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION

- Review implementation of biosecurity protocols at USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratories;
- Review USDA's implementation of research, education and extension programs authorized in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review the administration of the ARS research stations and worksites;
- Review USDA's continuing ability to conduct foreign animal disease research, training and diagnostic programs at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility following the transfer of the center to the Department of Homeland Security;
- Assess federal efforts to facilitate research and development of aquacultural enterprises, specifically focusing on the activities of the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture;
- Review USDA's regulation of organic standards;
- Review USDA's collection of organic production and market data;
- Review administration of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);
- Review the administration of the Agricultural Food Research Initiative and other competitive research, extension and education grants programs;
- Review efforts to leverage Federal research investment with state, local, and private sources of funding;
- Review coordination between ARS, Economic Research Service (ERS), NIFA and action agencies in USDA—such as NRCS and FSA—in order to prevent duplicative research;
- Review operation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board;
- Review USDA's efforts to expand research and development of pathogen reduction technologies;
- Evaluate the current mix of research funding mechanisms to ensure maximum benefits from these investments to producers, processors and consumers;
- Review administration of USDA's agricultural marketing and promotion programs;
- Review coordination between USDA and DOE on energy research programs;
- Review the sufficiency of research funding under ARS, ERS, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and NIFA;
- Review ARS, ERS, NASS and NIFA national program priorities;
- Conduct oversight of the research grant process, generally, and more specifically to coordinate and prevent overlapping research;
- Review the potential for research and technology transfer to address the needs of both the biofuels and livestock industries; and

BIOTECHNOLOGY

- Review current regulations and research regarding animal and plant biotechnology;
- Review FDA's regulatory activities regarding genetically engineered animals;
- Assess USDA's efforts to develop and promote benefits of biotechnology for increasing agricultural productivity and combating hunger globally;
- Review USDA's management and controls over biotechnology-derived material;
- Review the effect of litigation on USDA's timeliness in resolving petitions to deregulate products of biotechnology;
- Review effects of state, county and municipal regulation of biotechnology on the free-flow of agricultural products in interstate commerce; and

U.S. FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

- Review the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) strategy for dealing with wildfire, including the effect of hazardous fuels management, forest health efforts and fire preparedness;
- Continue to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the USFS fire management program;
- Review the effect of fire expenses on other USFS program delivery;
- Assess the USFS strategy for timber harvesting on federal lands;
- Review effects of environmental regulations on National Forest land management;
- Review economic effects of National Forest land management on rural communities;
- Review USFS efforts to promote utilization of National Forest timber for renewable energy purposes; and

DAIRY

- Review USDA's implementation of the dairy risk management provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dairy programs;
- Review efficiency of federal market order system; and

OUTREACH AND CIVIL RIGHTS

- Review the operations of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach;
- Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to beginning, small and minority farmers/ranchers;
- Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to military veterans interested in careers in agriculture;
- Review of the operations of the office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights;
- Review USDA's implementation of the receipt for service provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review USDA's process for settling discrimination claims and evaluating individual claims submitted pursuant to such settlements;

- Review the delivery of USDA services and outreach efforts on Indian reservations and tribal lands;
- Review the current status of the Agricultural Census and efforts to reach undercounted farmers and ranchers;
- Review participation of minority farmers in FSA County/Local Committees as well as outreach to increase participation in County Committee elections; and

USDA GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Review confidentiality of information provided to USDA by agricultural producers;
- Review USDA's implementation of field office consolidation for the purpose of effectively and efficiently delivering commodity, conservation, energy and rural development programs;
- Review USDA's efforts to modernize its Information Technology (IT) systems;
- Review the administrative structure of USDA for effectiveness and efficiency; and

FARM CREDIT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE RURAL ECONOMY

- Review the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA) regulatory program and activities regarding the Farm Credit System (FCS) to assure its safety and soundness;
- Review the activities and programs of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (also referred to as Farmer Mac);
- Review FSA's direct and guaranteed loan programs and graduation efforts;
- Review the Rural Electrification Act (REA);
- Review the farm economy and access to credit;
- Review implementation of rural development policies and authorities contained in the Agricultural Act of 2014 and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act;
- Conduct oversight of the USDA's Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program;
- Review USDA Rural Development's application processes and internal controls related to the Farm Bill;
- Review the administration of the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program;
- Conduct oversight of the implementation of USDA's Telecommunications Programs;
- Review the status of the Rural Telephone Bank;
- Assess the state of rural water systems and effectiveness of federal funding to build and upgrade those systems;
- Assess the effectiveness of USDA programs targeted toward rural infrastructure and business needs;
- Review agricultural lending practices;
- Review public-private partnerships in lending through guaranteed loans;
- Review the definition of "rural" under rural development programs;
- Review rural development loan programs and default rates; and

USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

- Review food and nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), fruit and vegetable initiatives, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) program and other commodity distribution programs;
- Review participant eligibility criteria for SNAP;
- Review the interaction between SNAP and other low-income assistance programs such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and provisions in the Affordable Care Act;
- Review SNAP work pilots and the efficiency and accountability of the SNAP Employment & Training program;
- Review efforts by USDA and the states to combat waste, fraud and abuse within nutrition programs;
- Review efforts by state SNAP administrators to modernize and streamline their programs;
- Review the Community Food Project Program to ensure cooperative grants are working; and

SPECIALTY CROPS

- Review implementation of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act;
- Review the Specialty Crop Block Grant program to ensure that the grants awarded are enhancing the specialty crop industry;
- Review farmers market programs;
- Review implementation and effectiveness of cooperative plant health programs, including Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention and the Clean Plant Network;
- Review the Specialty Crop Research Initiative; and

FOOD SAFETY

- Review implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act;
- Review implementation of the FDA Egg Safety Rule;
- Review USDA's administration of meat and poultry inspection laws and the FDA's food inspection activities to ensure the development of scientifically sound systems for food safety assurance;
- Review USDA's implementation of the catfish inspection program;
- Review USDA's efforts to educate consumers regarding safe food handling practices and streamline the assessment and approval of food safety technologies;
- Review implementation of new protocols for meat, poultry, eggs, or seafood safety inspection;
- Review USDA's enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and humane handling regulations;
- Review the mechanisms to establish scientifically based international food safety standards; and

PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH

- Review enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act;

- Assess federal efforts to reduce threats to human, animal, and plant health due to predatory and invasive species;
- Review efforts of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to manage wildlife conflicts in order to protect public health and safety;
- Assess USDA's Animal Disease Traceability Plan;
- Review implementation of Sec. 10201 (of the 2008 farm bill) regarding plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention; and

LIVESTOCK MARKETING

- Assess the effectiveness of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) in determining market manipulation in the livestock industry;
- Review structural changes in agribusiness and the potential cost and benefits for agricultural producers;
- Review the USDA's mandatory livestock price reporting system; and

HOMELAND AND AGRICULTURAL SECURITY

- Oversight of USDA's preparedness against terrorist threats to agriculture production;
- Review cooperative efforts between the Department of Homeland Security and USDA to prevent against foreign animal disease;
- Review agriculture inspection activities under the Department of Homeland Security; and

MISCELLANEOUS

- Review the effects of sequestration on USDA operations and programs;
- Review the effect of transportation infrastructure issues on agriculture and forestry;
- Review USDA's implementation and enforcement of the country of origin labeling rule including, but not limited to, actions taken by USDA to implement measures necessary to comply with the recommendations and rulings of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body on Certain Country of Origin Labeling Requirements; and

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COMMITTEES TO REDUCE DUPLICATION

- With Natural Resources on forestry issues, ESA issues and other public land issues;
- With Science on research;
- With Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce on nutrition programs;
- With Ways and Means on trade issues;
- With Homeland Security on importation of animal and plant material and on research related to agroterrorism;
- With Judiciary on immigrant agricultural labor;
- With Energy and Commerce on food safety and biomass energy programs both existing and new;
- With Transportation and Infrastructure on certain CWA compliance issues;
- With Financial Services on Dodd-Frank Act issues;

- With Foreign Affairs on food aid and trade issues;
- With Small Business on addressing economic opportunities for rural America; and
- Any other committee as appropriate.

114TH CONGRESS " HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1st Session

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

R E P O R T

OF

OVERSIGHT PLANS
ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 2(d)(1) of Rule X



APPROVED JANUARY 28, 2015

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

114th Congress

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WILLIAM E. SMITH, *Clerk and Staff Director*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

JANUARY 28, 2015

Hon. Jason Chaffetz,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. Candice S. Miller,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ and CHAIRMAN MILLER: On behalf of the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby transmit the Committee's plan for Oversight activities for the 114th Congress. This year, the Committee intends to conduct increased oversight of Federal programs, policies and activities, especially with regard to unnecessary spending and duplication in Government programs. In addition, the Committee will carefully study the Administration's budget requests and fiscal and programmatic execution in light of budget constraints, changing demographics, shifting needs, and the priorities of the American people.

The Committee looks forward to working with all Members of the House of Representatives in order to fulfill our responsibilities under the Rules.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

HAROLD ROGERS, *Chairman*

(III)

114TH CONGRESS " HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1st Session

REPORT OF OVERSIGHT PLANS OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

APPROVED JANUARY 28, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Re-
form and the Committee on House Administration the following

R E P O R T

OVERSIGHT PLANS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House requires each
standing committee of the House to adopt oversight plans at the
beginning of each Congress. Specifically, the Rule states in part:

“Rule X, clause (2)(d)(1). Not later than February 15 of the
first session of a Congress, each standing committee shall, in
a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum
present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan
shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Over-
sight and Government Reform and to the Committee on House
Administration.”

JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Rule X of the Rules of the House vests in the Committee on Ap-
propriations broad responsibility over the Federal budget. Specifi-
cally the Rule defines the Committee’s jurisdiction, as follows:

“Rule X clause 1(b). Committee on Appropriations.

(1) Appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Gov-
ernment.

(2) Rescissions of appropriations contained in appropriations
Acts.

(1)

(3) Transfers of unexpended balances.

(4) Bills and joint resolutions reported by other committees that provide new entitlement authority as defined in section 3(9) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and referred to the committee under clause 4(a)(2).

(5) Bills and joint resolutions that provide new budget authority, limitation on the use of funds, or other authority relating to new direct loan obligations and new loan guarantee commitments referencing section 504(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974."

GENERAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

"2. (a) The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in—

(1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of (A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws; and (B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and

(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of such changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate.

(b)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) shall review and study on a continuing basis—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(B) the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(C) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction (whether or not a bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto); and

(D) future research and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction."

SPECIAL OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS

"3. (a) The Committee on Appropriations shall conduct such studies and examinations of the organization and operation of executive departments and other executive agencies (including any agency the majority of the stock of which is owned by the United States) as it considers necessary to assist it in the determination of matters within its jurisdiction."

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES

“4. (a)(1)(A) The Committee on Appropriations shall, within 30 days after the transmittal of the budget to Congress each year, hold hearings on the budget as a whole with particular reference to—

(i) the basic recommendations and budgetary policies of the President in the presentation of the budget; and

(ii) the fiscal, financial, and economic assumptions used as bases in arriving at total estimated expenditures and receipts.

(B) In holding hearings under subdivision (A), the Committee shall receive testimony from the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and such other persons as the Committee may desire.

(C) A hearing under subdivision (A), or any part thereof, shall be held in open session, except when the committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that the testimony to be taken at that hearing on that day may be related to a matter of national security. The committee may by the same procedure close one subsequent day of hearing. A transcript of all such hearings shall be printed and a copy thereof furnished to each Member, Delegate, and the Resident Commissioner.

(D) A hearing under subdivision (A), or any part thereof, may be held before a joint meeting of the Committee and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate in accordance with such procedures as the two committees jointly may determine.

(2) Pursuant to section 401(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, when a committee reports a bill or joint resolution that provides new entitlement authority as defined in section 3(9) of that Act, and enactment of the bill or joint resolution, as reported, would cause a breach of the committee's pertinent allocation of new budget authority under section 302(a) of that Act, the bill or joint resolution may be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with instruction to report it with recommendations (which may include an amendment limiting the total amount of new entitlement authority provided in the bill or joint resolution). If the Committee on Appropriations fails to report a bill or joint resolution so referred within 15 calendar days (not counting any day on which the House is not in session), the committee automatically shall be discharged from consideration of the bill or joint resolution, and the bill or joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) In addition, the Committee on Appropriations shall study on a continuing basis those provisions of law that (on the first day of the first fiscal year for which the congressional budget process is effective) provide spending authority or permanent budget authority and shall report to the House from time to time its recommendations for terminating or modifying such provisions.

(4) In the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee on Appropriations (after consulting with the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocations made to it in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such concurrent resolution, and promptly report the subdivisions to the House as soon

as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year is agreed to.”

Rule XIII of the Rules of the House prescribes special reporting requirements of the Committee on Appropriations. Specifically Rule XIII, clause 3(f) states:

CONTENT OF REPORTS

“(f)(1) A report of the Committee on Appropriations on a general appropriation bill shall include—

(A) a concise statement describing the effect of any provision of the accompanying bill that directly or indirectly changes the application of existing law; and

(B) a list of all appropriations contained in the bill for expenditures not currently authorized by law for the period concerned (except classified intelligence or national security programs, projects, or activities) along with a statement of the last year for which such expenditures were authorized, the level of expenditures authorized for that year, the actual level of expenditures for that year, and the level of appropriations in the bill for such expenditures.

(2) Whenever the Committee on Appropriations reports a bill or joint resolution including matter specified in clause 1(b)(2) or (3) of rule X, it shall include—

(A) in the bill or joint resolution, separate headings for “Rescissions” and “Transfers of Unexpended Balances”; and

(B) in the report of the committee, a separate section listing such rescissions and transfers.”

OVERSIGHT PLAN

The Committee on Appropriations is strongly committed to stringent and comprehensive oversight of Federal discretionary spending to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being invested wisely and prudently on behalf of the American people. Oversight should not be a partisan exercise, but a serious evaluation and accounting of how taxpayer dollars are being utilized by Government agencies and programs.

Because of the historic nature of the Nation’s fiscal condition, Congress must go further in exercising oversight than ever before. This Congress must get into the weeds, root out waste, abuse and duplicative spending in Federal programs, and reject “more money” solutions to our budgetary challenges.

As part of this focus, the Appropriations Committee must maintain continual pressure on Federal agency officials and department heads in order to promote accountability and responsibility by the agencies regarding the investment of American tax dollars. In addition, the Committee will utilize, where appropriate, information and testimony from non-Government entities to further scrutinize Federal spending and the effectiveness and necessity of Government programs.

To accomplish these goals for in the 114th Congress, the Committee on Appropriations intends to engage in the following oversight actions:

(1) *Subcommittee Hearings.* The Appropriations Committee holds itself to the highest standards for analyses of the Presi-

dent's budget and supplemental funding requests. During the 113th Congress, the Appropriations Committee held 212 hearings, heard testimony from 1,898 witnesses and published 152 volumes of hearings totaling 126,309 pages.

These subcommittee hearings will include testimony from Federal agency officials with responsibility over the spending of taxpayer dollars, as well as non-Government individuals and entities with relevant budgetary information and analysis. Oversight may also include reviewing the responsiveness of Federal agencies to Committee, Member and other congressional requests for information.

(2) *Investigations.* In addition to open oversight hearings, the Committee will also engage in in-depth, comprehensive studies and investigations into agency activities when it is deemed necessary. Specifically, these investigations may include examination of potential duplication in Government programs, budget practices in Federal agencies, as well as others. Many of these investigations will be conducted by the Committee's Surveys and Investigations staff, who are highly qualified and experienced in the detailed examination of Federal budgets. In addition, the Committee will continue to utilize the investigative expertise of the Government Accountability Office and the Inspectors General of the various Federal agencies. By the end of the 113th Congress, the Committee had completed or had under active review 64 studies by the Surveys and Investigations staff. Additionally, the Government Accountability Office issued 211 investigative reports to the Committee during the 113th Congress and had in process another 252 reports at the end of that Congress.

(3) *Appropriations Bills.* The "Power of the Purse" is the Committee's primary responsibility, as outlined in Article I, Section 9, and Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution which states that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." The manner in which the Committee chooses to provide or withhold Federal funding will be undertaken with the utmost level of care and concern over the prudent and responsible use of taxpayer funds, based on its in-depth review of each agencies programs and budget through its informed analyses. The Committee will strictly adhere to its responsibilities under the Congressional Budget Act by ensuring its strict conformance with the total discretionary spending levels established in the Budget Resolution. The Committee will fulfill its responsibility to allocate those funds among the subcommittees based on the prioritization of limited spending based on its analyses and reviews.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am forwarding to you an electronic and paper copy of the Committee on Armed Services' Oversight Plan for the 114th Congress, as adopted by the committee on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

I look forward to working with you in the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives that requires that, not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee of the House shall adopt its oversight plan for that Congress.

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INTRODUCTION

The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted throughout the calendar year. They are instrumental in the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill, which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense as well as the national security functions of the Department of Energy and other related areas. The annual national defense budget involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. Contingency operations related to the global war on terrorism will continue to expand the range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues of great scope and complexity.

The committee has jurisdiction over laws, programs, and agencies under permanent authority in numerous titles of the United States Code, including title 10 (Armed Forces), title 32 (National Guard), title 37 (Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services), title 41 (Public Contracts), title 42 (Atomic Energy), title 46 (Shipping), and title 50 (War and National Defense).

The jurisdiction of the committee, pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives is as follows:

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, and Air Force reservations and establishments.
2. Common defense generally.
3. Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.
4. The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.
5. Interoceanic canals generally, including measures relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals.
6. Merchant Marine Academy, and State Merchant Marine Academies.
7. Military applications of nuclear energy.
8. Tactical intelligence and intelligence related activities of the Department of Defense.
9. National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference, and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to national security.
10. Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed services.
11. Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.
12. Selective service.
13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.
14. Soldiers' and sailors' homes.
15. Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.
16. Cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction and general oversight function, the committee has special oversight functions with respect to international arms control and disarmament and the education of military dependents in schools pursuant to clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The committee will continue its oversight and assessment of threats to U.S. national security as it considers the fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 defense budget requests. This effort will involve appropriate oversight hearings with the Secretary of Defense; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the individual service secretaries and chiefs of staff; combatant commanders; other officials of the Department of Defense and the military departments; officials from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, and other defense-related intelligence agencies; and the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and other officials of the Department of Energy. In addition, the committee will invite the views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy

organizations, and those in private life with expertise on these matters. Finally, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek the views and perspectives of service members and their families to include Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members across the United States and at deployed locations overseas.

The committee carries out its oversight of the Department of Defense and its subordinate departments and agencies as well as portions of the Department of Energy through activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. Each subcommittee with assigned topical or programmatic responsibilities conducts oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction as specified in the committee's rules. Certain issues and activities requiring more extensive, lengthy, and in-depth review are assigned to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. This subcommittee works with the relevant subcommittees (and/or full committee) in a coordinated manner to undertake the necessary oversight.

The oversight agenda below, unless otherwise noted, is designed to support the consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the House of Representatives of the annual defense authorization bill, as well as the committee's broader oversight responsibilities. The issues identified are expected to be ongoing areas of oversight activity throughout the 114th Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to pay particular attention to the mandates placed on executive departments and agencies. In this context, pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will continue to emphasize the examination of relevant rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for their effects on efficiency and good management practices.

Given the unique nature of national security issues and related oversight of the Armed Forces, the committee believes that a qualifier is once again necessary with regard to the ability to plan comprehensively and predict all oversight activities. Much of the committee's most demanding oversight will be, by definition, event-driven and not subject to prior planning. Such events significantly complicate the ability to prescribe with great accuracy or specificity the committee's entire oversight agenda. For instance, the oversight of defense activities by the committee has historically involved in-depth assessments of military operations and other major events that are generally difficult to predict in advance, such as the recent operations in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and responses to catastrophic events. In the 112th Congress, a significant portion of the committee's oversight agenda was dedicated to assessing the effects of defense sequestration, as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25), which could not have been foreseen at the time the oversight plan for the 112th Congress was adopted. These reviews can dominate committee and staff resources, sometimes at the expense of other planned activities. The committee fully expects that this type of event-driven oversight will continue to be required.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into prescriptive legislative action as reflected in past comprehensive efforts such as: providing for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits for veterans with qualifying combat-related disabilities; the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433); the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-355); the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration and related reform of the management of the national security programs of the Department of Energy; the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-366); the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007 included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181); the Weapon System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-23); the Implementing Management for Performance and Related Reforms to Obtain Value in Every Acquisition Act of 2010 (IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010), as included in the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383); the Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Reauthorization Act of 2011, as included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81); and the application of additional sanctions against the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as included in both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-39). In the 113th Congress, the committee's focused oversight of the sensitive military operations of the Department of Defense led to the introduction of the bipartisan bill H.R. 1904, the Oversight of Sensitive Military Operations Act, in May 2013, much of which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-76). Similarly, the committee's oversight series on the national security challenges in the Asia-Pacific in 2013 and 2014 led to the introduction of the bipartisan bill H.R. 4495, the Asia-Pacific Region Priority Act, portions of which were included in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). The committee will continue to oversee these and other prior legislative provisions in the 114th Congress. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

As previously noted, the committee has dedicated significant oversight to the examination of the implications of the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 for national defense and defense sequestration. The committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's implementation of the planned budget cuts to ensure the military is responsibly applying cuts and continuing to invest in high priority national security requirements. Likewise, the committee will assess the effects of declining defense resources and sequestration on the health of the force and risk associated with executing the national defense strategy. While the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67) provided some relief to defense by increasing the BCA discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, fiscal year 2016 will see a return to the BCA caps

and defense sequestration. The committee shares the concern of the National Defense Panel that the BCA, on top of previous cuts to defense dating back to 2009, will “lead to a high risk force in the near future,” have “caused significant shortfalls in U.S. military readiness and both present and future capabilities,” and have prompted allies and adversaries alike “to question our commitment and resolve.” The committee continues to oppose the sequester of national defense funding, and will continue to conduct oversight in the 114th Congress to highlight the consequences for the military, the defense industrial base, and national security, and to ensure that the damage to U.S. national security is mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

The committee has also focused on comprehensive defense reform, spanning such areas as acquisition, institutional, security, and strategy reforms. The committee recognizes that, in this austere budget environment, we must get more defense for the dollar and thus it is more essential than ever that all Department of Defense processes and institutions become as efficient as possible. The committee will oversee reforms efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense and, working in partnership with relevant stakeholders, will also develop reform proposals through its traditional legislative process and other appropriate mechanisms.

In addition to the above, the following specific areas and subjects are identified for special attention during the 114th Congress.

POLICY ISSUES

NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY, NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY, AND RELATED DEFENSE POLICY ISSUES

Recent events highlight what the National Defense Panel Review of the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) has observed: “the United States faces perhaps the most complex and volatile security environment since World War II.” These encompass the violence and brutality fomented by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic; continued security challenges in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; regional aggression by the Russian Federation; destabilizing actions by the People’s Republic of China in the South and East China Seas; continued tensions on the Korean peninsula; continued terrorism threats, instability, and the spread of global extremism particularly across the Middle East and North Africa; natural disasters and epidemics like the Ebola virus; and the continued spread of lethal and disruptive technologies. These events and other security developments across the globe also serve to highlight the continued need for the U.S. military to be postured and capable of defending the Nation’s interests and addressing security challenges, wherever and whenever they may arise.

Through its constitutional responsibility arising from article I, section 8, to raise and support armies and to provide and maintain a Navy, the committee has a responsibility to ensure that the military can meet its future missions, as well as today’s operational requirements. The committee will closely review how the Department of Defense postures itself to meet these simultaneous, and oftentimes competing, demands: ongoing military operations in Afghani-

stan, Iraq, and Syria; ongoing global counterterrorism operations; strategic reassurance and deterrence activities in Europe and the Asia-Pacific; and ensuring that the Department invests in modernization and remains capable of addressing new conventional and unconventional challenges. Therefore, the committee will provide oversight to ensure that all Department activities, capabilities and functions, including doctrine, organization, training, education, exercises, materiel, leadership, personnel, facilities, and planning, appropriately reflect the need to meet the full range of security requirements.

The committee will continually evaluate the Nation's defense and military strategy, including the strategy outlined in the Department of Defense QDR released in 2014, to specifically include evaluating the alignment of the strategy to the security environment and the posture, capabilities, and resources necessary to execute the strategy. The committee will also evaluate other relevant strategies developed by the Department of Defense, including the military departments and services, defense agencies, and combatant commands. Additionally, the committee will consider strategic risk; put in simple terms, this means ensuring that U.S. forces retain the ability, regardless of present operational pressures and budgetary constraints, to deter any potential foe, respond to any contingency that threatens U.S. interests, and defeat any adversary who might threaten America's interests, in the worst case. In this regard, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense's range of assumptions about future threats made in strategy documents to assess the adequacy of forces and capabilities, the resources available, and the associated risk, particularly when these are misaligned.

While the committee understands that the annual defense budget must remain consistent with the caps contained in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) and defense sequestration, it also continues to recognize the severe impacts these cuts have had, and will continue to have, on the military. The committee will continue to highlight these impacts and is committed to providing full authorization for the funding required for the readiness of the military, to enhance the quality of life of military service members and their families, to sustain and improve the Armed Forces, and to properly safeguard the national security of the United States.

Lastly, the committee will continue to seek inputs from non-government experts and independent entities, such as the National Defense Panel, which released its independent review of the 2014 QDR in July 2014. In addition, the committee will oversee the Department's implementation of a reformed Defense Strategy Review, as required in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

U.S. MILITARY EFFORT IN AFGHANISTAN

The U.S. military effort in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has transitioned to training, advising, and assisting the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), conducting counterterrorism operations against Al Qaeda, and executing force protection of U.S. personnel and facilities.

The committee will conduct robust oversight of the execution of the post-2014 missions in Afghanistan, including whether the proper resources are in place to support the post-2014 mission sets. The committee will also continue to examine the regional security environment, including efforts by the Afghans and the Pakistanis to deny safe havens to Al Qaeda, the Haqqani Network, and other jihadist organizations.

The committee will also continue to monitor other critical efforts in Afghanistan such as the effectiveness of the ANSF, as well as their ability to sustain operations and institutional requirements.

Force Protection

The committee will continue to emphasize force protection as a high priority issue for special oversight, with a particular focus on areas having a direct impact on the safety of military personnel engaged in the continued operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as Operation Inherent Resolve. The committee will seek to expedite the promulgation of policies and the fielding of technology and equipment that prevents and/or reduces combat casualties, as well as meeting the urgent operational needs of the global combatant commands.

For all current overseas contingency operations, focus areas will continue to include but are not limited to: the policies for management and acquisition of counter improvised explosive device (IED) equipment throughout the force; persistent surveillance, particularly prevention of IED emplacement; actionable tactical intelligence processing, exploitation, and dissemination capabilities in support of ground operations; effective intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance equipment capabilities; capabilities to counter indirect fire such as artillery and mortar munitions; effective and properly resourced quantities of personnel protection equipment, to include body armor, night vision, combat helmets, and flame-resistant combat uniforms; vehicle armor, to include survivability improvements to the combat and tactical vehicle fleets; improving current biometric systems; and effective aircraft survivability equipment (ASE), specifically ASE for the current rotorcraft fleets.

During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to provide robust oversight and monitoring of any “insider attacks” perpetrated by Afghan security forces against U.S. and coalition personnel in Afghanistan. Additionally, the committee will continue its oversight of the steps the Department of Defense is taking to understand, protect U.S. troops, and prevent such attacks, to include: the motive of such attacks; the tactics, techniques, and procedures leveraged by the attacker; the impact of the attacks the mission; and the procedures being taken to mitigate for and, to the maximum extent possible, prevent future “insider attacks.”

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

The U.S. and coalition forces continue to conduct operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This effort is known as Operation Inherent Resolve. Presently, U.S. and coalition operations include an air campaign that is focused against ISIL in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The committee will conduct oversight of this effort, including the effectiveness of the effort against ISIL, as well as the political and sectarian dynamics in both Iraq and Syria, which have, in part, fostered the context and political climate for ISIL to expand and grow.

In addition, the committee will closely monitor the stability of the countries in the region of Iraq and Syria and any growth or expansion of ISIL in the region. The committee will closely monitor any changes to the mission set of Operation Inherent Resolve and will conduct oversight of the efforts that are intended to complement Operation Inherent Resolve, including the activities of coalition nations, as well as the training and equipping of the Iraqi Security Forces and the vetted elements of the moderate Syrian opposition.

Authorization for Use of Military Force

The committee will continue to examine the legal basis for the President's military actions against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). To date, the President has cited his Article II authority under the Constitution as well as certain statutory authorities, including the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) and the 2002 AUMF.

The 114th Congress may consider an AUMF to authorize U.S. military operations against ISIL. The committee will examine those aspects of the AUMF relevant to its jurisdiction, including the integration of lessons learned from the implementation of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs, as well as knowledge gained through oversight of Operation Inherent Resolve, to inform consideration of any new AUMF against ISIL.

Force Protection

As previously discussed, the force protection of U.S. troops deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve will be a top priority for the committee. The committee is aware of the risks to U.S. forces in Iraq, including the potential for attacks against U.S. troops emanating from within the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) as well as from Shia militias, Iraqi tribes, and Iranian forces operating inside of Iraq. In addition to the matters previously described, the committee will closely monitor the contextual factors that may lead to a change in force protection posture for U.S. forces and will conduct close oversight of the steps that the Department of Defense is taking to protect and prevent any such attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq. Moreover, if the mission changes for U.S. forces deployed to Iraq, the committee will examine the force protection measures in conjunction with any change in mission.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Since the 9/11 attacks, the United States has dealt Al Qaeda repeated and significant blows during the global war on terrorism. Despite many notable successes, Al Qaeda remains potent in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the organization's affiliates continue to operate in countries such as the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Yemen, and the Republic of Mali. The committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over terrorism

issues, with particular attention to special operations capabilities, and the changing nature of Al Qaeda's organization and affiliates and their operations. The committee will also continue to focus on efforts to build partner nation counterterrorism and conventional warfare capabilities to counter these threats at the regional and local level. As the United States strengthens and builds partnership capacity with key allies around the globe, the committee will remain focused on the Department of Defense's efforts to aggressively fight the global war on terror and counter radicalism in places of concern, such as Pakistan, Yemen, the Horn of Africa, and threats posed by groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Ensuring security and stability in volatile regions that cannot adequately govern themselves or secure their own territory will remain a top priority for the committee.

THE GREATER MIDDLE EAST

The Greater Middle East remains an area of particular focus for the committee in the 114th Congress. This geographic area includes countries in which the United States has invested, and continues to invest, significant military resources. Al Qaeda, its affiliates, its associated organizations, and other jihadist organizations continue to leverage certain countries within this region to conduct operational planning and to serve as launch points for attacks against the United States, its allies and partners, and U.S. interests. As a result, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of U.S. defense policies, readiness, and military programs in this region.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The committee will continue its oversight of the broad range of security issues involving the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and, given the transition of the U.S. military effort in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, will continue to carefully review the use of Coalition Support Funds, which are provided to reimburse Pakistan for its support to U.S. military operations and security assistance. The committee will monitor the security and stability of Pakistan; including the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, Pakistan's on-going and future nuclear weapon projects, and its willingness and operational capacity to combat key terrorist groups, such as Al Qaeda, the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban, the Haqqani network, and other terrorist organizations. Moreover, the committee will evaluate the terrorist activity emanating from the border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and will conduct oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to combat that threat.

Republic of Iraq

The U.S. military posture, strategy, and approach has changed significantly within the Republic of Iraq, including the on-going U.S. military air campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, known as Operation Inherent Resolve, and the effort to re-train and re-build the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The committee will conduct robust oversight of Operation Inherent Resolve, as well as the entirety of the U.S. military effort in Iraq, including the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq.

The committee will focus its oversight on key aspects of the U.S. military effort in Iraq such as any change in the employment of U.S. military forces, the effectiveness of the air campaign, the effort to train and equip the ISF, and the political situation in Iraq, which is critical to the success of any U.S. military effort there.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The committee will continue its oversight into the development of nuclear weapons, and/or nuclear weapons capability, by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the threat posed by a nuclear, or nuclear-capable, Iran.

The committee will monitor the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) between the P5+1 (the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the French Republic, and the Federal Republic of Germany) and Iran, including Iran's fulfillment of its commitments under the JPOA, as well as any changes to Iran's nuclear program under the JPOA. Additionally, the committee will conduct close examination of any potential "comprehensive" or "final" agreement between the P5+1 and Iran. The committee will also conduct oversight of the full range of U.S. military planning, prepositioning of military assets, and operations to counter Iran's nuclear program should the P5+1 negotiations fail.

Finally, the committee will continue to monitor the strategic orientation, operational capacity, and goals of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps. The committee also will focus its attention towards Iran's Quds Force, including the activities of the Quds Force in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Iraq, and the region.

Syrian Arab Republic

The committee will continue its inquiry into the evolving security and humanitarian situation inside the Syrian Arab Republic as well as effects of the on-going conflict on its neighbors, including the Republic of Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, and the Lebanese Republic. Additionally, the committee will conduct robust oversight of U.S. and coalition military operations in Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. The committee will also conduct inquiry into the U.S. policy and approach against the Assad regime, as it remains a key feature of the conflict in Syria and is consistently highlighted as an area of concern by countries in the region that are part of the coalition. Furthermore, the committee will continue to focus on the movement of jihadists to and from Syria, including the capacity and relative strength of the terrorist groups.

Finally, the committee will conduct oversight of the effort to train and equip the moderate elements of the vetted Syrian opposition and will continually monitor the deployment and positioning of military personnel and resources to the region to address this issue set.

Republic of Yemen

The security situation in the Republic of Yemen will continue to be a significant focus for the committee. The committee will maintain its oversight of the U.S. military's counterterrorism activities in Yemen. The committee will examine the capability, capacity, and strategy of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to conduct transnational terrorist attacks as well as the overall political situation in Yemen, including the status of the Houthis and the southern secessionist movement in Yemen.

THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA

As discussed in greater detail below, the committee will maintain its oversight focus on Department of Defense activities in Africa. Additionally, the committee will continue to closely examine the Department's coordination within the interagency to address the range of activities that are occurring in Africa.

North Africa

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the evolving security situation in North Africa, including the failure of the State of Libya, the security challenges in the Arab Republic of Egypt, the tenuous security situation in the Republic of Mali, and the evolving nature of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the growth of other jihadist groups in this region.

The committee will focus its oversight on the Department of Defense's implementation of the lessons learned from the Benghazi attack within this region and beyond, including, but not limited to, interagency coordination, positioning of military assets, threat perception, threat analysis, intelligence cycle, intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and crisis response.

East Africa

The committee will continue to provide oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to counter the terrorist threats in East Africa. In particular, the committee will remain focused on the threat from Al Shabaab, as well as the steps that the Department is taking to counter this group and prevent it from launching transnational terrorist attacks on the United States, its allies and partners, or its interests.

Moreover, the committee will continue to monitor the overlapping ideological, strategic, and operational coordination between Horn of Africa terrorist groups, such as Al Shabaab, and terrorist groups on the Arabian Peninsula, such as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

West Africa

The committee will continue its oversight of the terrorist group Boko Haram (BH). The committee will pay particular attention to the continuing ideological, strategic, and operational evolution of BH. The committee also will concentrate its attention on the geographic overlap and operational coordination with other terrorist groups on the Continent of Africa, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Al Shabaab.

Also, as the Department of Defense continues to conduct Operation United Assistance to address the Ebola virus in West Africa, the committee will continue its close oversight of the operation and will closely monitor any expansion of the U.S. mission therein.

Central Africa

The committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's activities to support the Uganda Peoples' Defense Force and other national militaries with approximately 100 special operation forces to counter the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and apprehend or remove Joseph Kony. Additionally, the committee will examine the Department of Defense's transition plans for the counter-LRA effort.

EUROPE

While the stability and security of Europe remain core U.S. national interests, increased pressures on Europe's eastern and southern borders due to recent aggressive actions by the Russian Federation, the ongoing civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant demonstrate that regional stability and security are not guaranteed. The committee will monitor and conduct oversight of U.S. military policy and strategy with regards to European allies and partners, including the capability and capacity of U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces to respond to threats that challenge both regional U.S. national interests and the security of NATO allies.

The U.S. military force presence in Europe has declined dramatically since the end of the Cold War. The recent withdrawal of two of the four Army Brigade Combat Teams has further reduced U.S. military presence in Europe. Nevertheless, there remain significant advantages that come from European-based U.S. troops, including the opportunity to train regularly with ally and partner forces at U.S. training centers in Europe and the ability to plan and launch operations elsewhere in the region. The committee will examine all overseas basing, including the European Infrastructure Consolidation review, to determine what is the most effective overseas force posture for our national security at the lowest possible cost.

European allies are strong partners with the U.S. military, contributing to a range of regional and global missions, including deploying approximately 3,000 personnel to the NATO-led Operation Resolute Support mission in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to train, advise, and assist the Afghan security forces. However, the continuing constrained fiscal environment has created pressures on the region's militaries, their defense budgets, and investments in future capabilities. Recent Russian aggression towards Ukraine and its neighbors requires both the United States and European allies to re-evaluate the current regional security threats and the capabilities and capacities required to deter and defeat those threats. The NATO 2014 Wales Summit declaration reaffirmed the alliance's commitment to "the security of its members through collective defense." NATO allies also reaffirmed their commitment to "strengthen the military capabilities the Alliance needs" and the need to continue to "invest in modern and deployable armed forces

that can operate effectively together and at a high level of readiness to fulfill NATO's tasks."

The committee will focus on the U.S. military capabilities and posture required in the European theater, and how those fit within the existing and future NATO requirements and structure. The committee will conduct oversight of the European Reassurance Initiative, as authorized in the the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) in order to ensure the U.S. military is postured and resourced to effectively reassure European allies and partners and deter further Russian aggression.

Russian Federation

Recent aggression by the Russian Federation towards Ukraine in 2014, including the illegal annexation of Crimea in March 2014, demonstrate that Russia, under President Vladimir Putin, has fundamentally challenged the vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. Russia's continued support to separatists in Ukraine poses a threat to the long-term stability of Ukraine and the wider region. Russia's demonstrated willingness and capability to engage in unacknowledged hybrid warfare in Ukraine presents a threat to its other neighbors, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies such as the Baltic nations and the Republic of Poland, and to international rules and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty. The committee will examine Russian military capabilities and capacities, and the required U.S. and NATO military capabilities to deter and defend against Russian aggression, as well as to reassure European allies and partners. The committee will also carefully review the appropriate Department of Defense resources and tools to build the capacity of Ukraine and other NATO allies and partners to deter further Russian aggression.

Russia remains focused on reforming and modernizing its conventional forces, including the recruitment, training, and retention of its troops, and modernizing its nuclear forces. In parallel with this modernization effort, Russia has also failed to comply with several arms control treaties important for European stability and security. Since December 2007, Russia has ceased implementing its obligations to the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which include providing annual notifications and data on military forces and basing. In 2014, the Administration formally declared Russia in violation of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The committee will closely watch these actions, coupled with Russia's changes to its military doctrine in late-2014 that identify NATO as a top threat to Russian security, and seek countervailing solutions to prevent Russia from destabilizing or undermining regional security. The committee will also examine Russia's military modernization of its conventional forces and its hybrid warfare capabilities, including its activities intended to destabilize or undermine regional stability.

ASIA

The committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's implementation of the Administration's government-wide policy to "rebalance" to the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, the

committee will continue to monitor the Department of Defense's strategy, force posture, capability needs, and readiness in the region, to ensure that U.S. forces are properly resourced and postured to protect U.S. national security interests.

Developments in the past few years continue to highlight the security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. The People's Republic of China continues its unilateral efforts to assert regional influence, particularly in the South and East China Seas, while also continuing "at a fast pace" its military modernization in areas such as anti-access and area denial capabilities, power projection, nuclear forces, space, cyber, and other advanced technology areas, according to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains a threat to stability on the Korean peninsula and the United States as it continues to advance its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, to include taking steps towards fielding its road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile that poses a direct threat to the United States, and expand its asymmetric capabilities recently exemplified by its destructive cyber attack on a western corporation. The committee will continue to monitor these and other emerging developments to inform its views and actions to shape U.S. national security policy, strategy, and defense investments for the region.

These security challenges have led the United States to strengthen its relationships with traditional treaty allies while also forging new relationships, particularly with partners in southeast Asia. The committee will continue to closely oversee the Department of Defense's efforts to implement a range of posture, force structure, and engagement initiatives in the region, including rotational deployments of Marines, naval, and air assets; forward pre-positioning; infrastructure realignments; and training and exercises. Specific examples include: the realignment of U.S. forces based in Japan; key operational control transition initiatives between U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea; trilateral defense cooperation efforts between the U.S., the Republic of Korea, and Japan; rotational deployments of U.S. forces to the Commonwealth of Australia; enhanced defense cooperation with the Republic of the Philippines; and a defense trade and technology initiative between the U.S. and the Republic of India.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

The committee will examine the issues affecting the U.S. security in Central and South America, as many nations in this region increasingly face the dangers of illicit trafficking, political turmoil, and instability that pose a potential threat to the homeland. The committee will oversee the execution of the military's security assistance programs in the Republic of Colombia, as it continues to improve its national security and make progress on peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The committee remains concerned about the political situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the instability it brings to the region. Additionally, the committee will focus on the growing economies in the region, such as the Federative Republic of Brazil, which is the region's largest and fastest-growing economy, and will examine their influence both in the Western Hemisphere and globally. In

addition, the committee is concerned with the ongoing instability in Central America, including the Republic of Honduras, the Republic of Guatemala, and the Republic of El Salvador, due to the influence of transnational organized crime. The committee will monitor the developing changes between the U.S. and the Republic of Cuba and any potential impacts on Department of Defense policies and operations. The committee continues to monitor potential threats from global terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, who have increasing influence in the region.

The committee recognizes the importance of the United States' relationship with its Central and South American neighbors and the ability of these partners to bring safety and security to the hemisphere.

ADDRESSING EMERGING THREATS

Terrorism, insurgency, and weapons of mass destruction proliferation are some of the emerging threats that challenge national security and global peace and stability. These threats require the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) within the Department of Energy to work effectively and efficiently with other Federal agencies and the governments of other nations. The committee will conduct oversight of numerous cross-cutting Department of Defense activities central to addressing these emerging and unforeseen threats, including the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, security force assistance, and building partnership capacity (BPC), all of which received renewed emphasis in the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review.

The committee will focus attention on how the Department of Defense addresses these broad threats in its strategic planning processes, how resources are arrayed to meet these threats, and how existing authorities are consistent with operational requirements. While there are roughly a dozen authorities that fall into the BPC category, two of the most significant authorities have been modified recently. These are the train and equip "1206", codified in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), and the Global Security Contingency Fund. Since 2006, the committee has been increasingly active in this area, and the last several National Defense Authorization Acts have reflected what Congress considers to be the appropriate balance of providing sufficient authority for the most pressing needs of the Department of Defense while encouraging a more integrated interagency approach to building partnership capacity. Furthermore, the committee will continue to closely monitor and assess the execution of these BPC authorities, both during the initial congressional notification process and while those programs are in progress. The committee will also conduct oversight of the Counter Terrorism Partnership Fund allocations towards BPC activities.

The committee will also focus attention on the Defense of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program and the NNSA Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) activities. The CTR program has changed since it was initially authorized in the Soviet

Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-228; also known as the Nunn-Lugar Act). Originally focused on securing and dismantling weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their associated infrastructure in former Soviet Union states, the CTR mission has since expanded to a global focus on protecting against WMD, including increased emphasis on chemical and biological weapons, and improving detection capabilities. The committee will conduct oversight of the updated CTR legislation in the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). The committee, along with the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, will continue to focus on NNSA DNN strategy and activities to counter the threat of the global proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities (given the key role Special Operations Forces play in this area), will continue its oversight of the full range of emerging threats to national security and U.S. military forces, and the capabilities needed to respond.

DETAINEE POLICY, MILITARY COMMISSIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS

The Department of Defense continues to be the custodian of detainees who are being held in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and United States Naval Station (GTMO), Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

With regard to detainee operations in Afghanistan, the committee will primarily focus on the transfer and release of third country national detainees and cases of recidivism. The committee will specifically focus on the disposition of detainees who pose a continuing national security threat to the United States.

With respect to detention operations at GTMO, the committee will continue to monitor transfer and release policies and practices, as well as the use of the Military Commissions Act (Public Law 109-366; Public Law 111-84) that established the current legal framework governing the operation of military tribunals to try detainees for war crimes and codified some of the procedural rights of GTMO detainees.

The committee will also focus on issues relating to detention policy for future captures, detainee interrogations, prioritization of intelligence collection, procedures for detainee reviews, conditions of confinement, and the Department’s role in the High Value Interrogation Group. The committee will also take other necessary actions and conduct related oversight.

INTELLIGENCE

In the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the reorganization of the intelligence community through implementation of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458) and the creation of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence position as authorized by the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314). The committee will also place particular attention on: resource allocation for intelligence-related programs for effectiveness and affordability; defense intelligence strategies and policies in consideration of current and anticipated future threats; organization and management of the elements of the Department

of Defense that are part of the intelligence community; and the consideration and prioritization of defense intelligence requirements across the intelligence community. Additionally, the committee will monitor the Department's security practices, audit capabilities, and information-sharing policies following recent extensive unauthorized disclosures of classified information. All of the committee's efforts will be focused on ensuring the highest possible quality of intelligence support to the warfighter.

Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence and counterintelligence matters of the Department of Defense, and intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Department of Energy in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES

The debate that began during the 112th Congress about the most appropriate force structure mix of Active and Reserve Components, about the proper roles and missions of the Reserve Components, be they an operational or strategic reserve, and about the affordability of the required force to meet national security requirements will intensify again in the 114th Congress. Competition among the Active and Reserve Components for diminishing resources will serve as a catalyst for that debate.

The Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) included provisions that commission GAO to study the appropriate balance between the Active force and the Guard. National Guard end strength reductions, as well as the re-distribution of important Guard aviation assets are blocked in fiscal year 2015. This provision allows Congress time to study the issue in-depth.

Building on the outcomes of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force report, in the 114th Congress the committee will continue its review of the various recommendations and proposals and monitor proposed changes to ensure the recommendations will meet the National Military Strategy requirements, as well as homeland security and disaster requirements. Given the uncertainty of the current and projected fiscal environment, the availability of equipment needed to sustain and modernize the National Guard and Reserve Components as an operational reserve and for their domestic support missions, to include legacy aircraft as part of the Aerospace Control Alert mission, remains a concern. The committee will also focus oversight efforts on current equipment investment strategies for the National Guard and Reserve Components with particular emphasis on affordability and modernization of critical dual-use equipment platforms that are essential to the National Guard's title 32 mission, defense support to civil authorities. Furthermore, the committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the obligation and execution rates of funds provided as part of a separate procurement account, entitled the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account that would be used to address equipment shortfalls for the National Guard and Reserve Components.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY

OVERVIEW

The committee is responsible not only for ensuring that the U.S. military has the capabilities required to preserve our national security, but also to ensure that the Department of Defense operates efficiently and with fiscal discipline in order to maximize the return on the taxpayers' investments. To that end, the committee will conduct oversight of the organization and management of the Department of Defense, its business operations, and the means by which the Department acquires goods and services. Acquisition programs that no longer represent the best value for the taxpayer, due to a changing security environment, mismanagement, or the time required to deliver a useful capability to the warfighter, will be re-evaluated by the committee as part of the annual defense authorization process.

Moreover, the committee will continue to examine the impacts of declining national defense budgets, as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) as modified by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–67). These cuts will reduce military end strength, force structure, and significantly alter planned procurements. Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1)(F) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, as the committee examines the impact of these funding reductions, the committee will cut or eliminate programs, including mandatory spending programs, that are deemed inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

Additional plans for oversight in this area during the 114th Congress follow below.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

As part of the committee's emphasis on defense reform, it will provide particular focus on the organization and management of the Department of Defense in order to ensure that it is properly postured to meet the complex and evolving security threats of the 21st century. Declining resources resulting from the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) and defense sequestration are driving the Department of Defense to reevaluate its organization and management structure to identify cost savings. The Department continues to implement organizational and management changes within the Department's major headquarters resulting from the announcement by the Secretary of Defense in July 2013 to identify cost savings through management efficiencies and overhead reductions.

The committee will carefully review any proposed organizational changes and monitor the Department's implementation of these changes, working to ensure that the missions of the Department are appropriately aligned with organizations that have the core competency to perform them. The committee will also work to ensure that the Department's enterprise, including the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the military departments, the combatant commands, and the defense agencies, operate efficiently, cutting out organizational waste and redundancy. To that end, the committee will seek to ensure that any reductions in personnel are

done smartly and strategically, and in consideration of the total workforce management.

Lastly, pursuant to clause (2)(p) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will also carefully review issues raised by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the “high-risk list” or the “high-risk series.”

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The committee will continue to oversee military effectiveness in this era of declining budgets. Funding levels have been stagnant for national defense over the last 3 fiscal years, and under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25), fiscal year 2016 will only be \$5 billion higher than the level appropriated in fiscal year 2013, resulting in an increase of less than 1 percent over the 3-year span.

The Comptroller General of the United States has consistently identified the Department of Defense’s financial management as a high-risk area since 1995. The Department’s inability to track and account for billions of dollars in funding and tangible assets continues to undermine its financial management systems. It also creates a lack of transparency that significantly limits congressional oversight.

Measures to reform defense acquisition or to find efficiencies within the Department are undermined by the Department’s inability to produce auditable financial statements. Without these objective tools, neither the Department nor Congress can fully verify that greater value is being created.

The committee will continue to review efforts to implement the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan as the Department moves to accomplish auditable financial statements by September 30, 2017, as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–84). The committee will monitor closely the interdependencies between the FIAR plan and the hundreds of millions of dollars per year being spent on business systems modernization programs that the Department has proposed to address its financial management problems.

ACQUISITION ISSUES

The Acquisition System and Acquisition Policy

Over the past 50 years, acquisition reform efforts focused primarily on identifying the failures of the acquisition system, a complex system which includes requirements setting, funding, and execution. While some progress has been made, the conditions in the early 1980s described by Dr. J. Ronald Fox in his seminal work on acquisition reform, “Defense Acquisition Reform 1960—2009: An Elusive Goal,” could still be used to describe the system today:

“Congressional critics, for example, blasted the services for rampant cost growth and schedule slippages. Aggressively pushing the frontiers of technology prompted cost overruns, they argued, while fierce inter-service competition for funds encouraged overly optimistic program cost estimates. The services, meanwhile, com-

plained about excessive paperwork and reporting procedures required by the . . . milestone reviews; micromanagement of weapons programs by OSD and Congress; and unrealistic demands for accurate cost estimates, especially when unknowns existed in the early stages of weapons program planning. Program managers directed similar criticisms at both OSD and the services, while OSD criticized the services for failing to restrict the number of weapon systems competing for limited resources. Other service shortcomings, according to OSD, included inadequate support and readiness for fielded weapons systems and lengthy acquisition cycles. Industry directed its frustrations across the board—at OSD, Congress, and the services. Program instability—caused by sudden production starts and stops, program stretch-outs, redirections, and long decision times—threatened the bottom line and risked financial ruin, while micromanagement and excessive surveillance of programs by OSD and the services disrupted efficient contractor performance. Industry representatives also believed that OSD’s emphasis on increasing price competition among contractors resulted in poor cost realism.”

The committee is concerned that the current system incentivizes a reality that too many defense acquisitions concurrently chase finite dollars. This is reflected in the fact that there remains a vast difference between Department of Defense budgets and the reality of the cost of the weapon systems they acquire. To keep weapon system programs alive, the Department continues to develop, and Congress continues to accept, fragile acquisition strategies that downplay technical issues and assume only successful outcomes to high risk efforts. As a result, the Nation often ends up with too few weapons, delivered late, at too high of a cost, with performance that falls short, and that are difficult and costly to maintain.

In addition to challenges in weapon systems procurement, the committee notes that Department expenditures for contracted services have grown in magnitude and face many management and oversight challenges. The Department currently obligates more than half of its total contract obligations on contracted services. However, Pentagon leadership, to include the Department’s own comptroller, have limited insight into the services being acquired and even less awareness of the services that may need to be acquired in the future. The Department currently lacks accurate and reliable data on contracted services, and the military departments and defense agencies have failed to develop processes to use available data to inform workforce planning, workforce mix, and budget decision making. This lack of data collection, failure to analyze data that has been acquired, and lack of general transparency hamper budget planning and Congressional decision-making.

Furthermore, the conventional acquisition process has proven to not be sufficiently agile to support warfighter demands. Congress and the Department have consistently expressed concern that urgent warfighting requirements for hardware, as well as services, are not being met. As a result, several authorities have been put in place for rapid acquisition practices envisioned to work around the general acquisition processes. However, many still argue that the current processes are so rigid and time-consuming that the Department is often not able to effectively tap into the innovation oc-

curing in the commercial marketplace, thereby losing opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness of both its business operations and warfighting capability.

The committee's ongoing acquisition improvement efforts seek to enhance oversight in these areas and to improve processes via a different approach from previous efforts. The committee seeks to improve the environment (i.e., human resources, culture, statutes, regulations, and processes) driving acquisition choices in the Department, industry, and Congress. As part of this ongoing effort, the committee solicited input from industry, academia, and the Department, as well as others during the 113th Congress, and will continue to engage these stakeholders during the 114th Congress. In addition, the committee held a series of hearings in the 113th Congress in order to gather testimony from key acquisition leaders and experts. While the committee recognizes that there are no "silver bullet" reform packages that can immediately fix the current acquisition system in a holistic manner, the committee intends to take the inputs it has received to facilitate its efforts in this area in the 114th Congress. The committee recognizes this effort will be an iterative process that will result in direct oversight and will be embedded in the committee's regular work throughout the 114th Congress.

Defense Industrial Base and Technology Transfers

The committee will continue to closely examine the health, security, and innovative capacity of the defense industrial base, especially in light of sequestration, changes to the defense strategy, and the needs for recapitalization and modernization after almost a decade and a half of active combat operations in forward locations. The industrial base for complex major weapons systems has become more fragile during this period, limiting the ability of the Department of Defense to control costs and encourage innovation through the use of competition. Industry has also struggled in many cases to make the long-term investments that are vital to the health of the defense industrial base. The committee will continue to examine and enhance the policies and funding tools available to the Department to facilitate the health of the defense industrial base.

Information Technology and Business Systems

Information technology (IT) systems are critical enablers for the Department of Defense. As the IT budget represents nearly \$32 billion of the Department of Defense's total budget, it also represents a major investment area requiring the same rigorous planning, analysis, and oversight as any other complex major weapon system. The Department recognized this area as a source of greater efficiencies and has managed to reduce spending in IT by several billion dollars across the Future Years Defense Program. It remains to be seen if these reductions are driving any real change in how the Department does business, or whether those reductions are made with any strategic plan in mind.

The committee will continue to review the Department's IT investment planning and review processes, as well as specific acquisitions, to improve the ability to identify and reduce unwarranted

duplication and eliminate programs of little value to the warfighter. The committee will pay particular attention to how the Department leverages the commercial marketplace, as well as the various IT systems of the Department where egregious programmatic failures have been made to provide lessons for future acquisitions. The committee also plans to focus on how the IT investments of the Department will contribute to future warfighting capability, and support a defensible architecture that is resilient to cyber attacks, while maintaining the command and control to support mission needs.

READINESS

RESET

The committee will continue to monitor the military services' reset strategies to repair, recapitalize, and replace equipment used in ongoing operations, and will also closely monitor progress toward complete reconstitution of prepositioned stocks. The committee believes that full reset remains at risk in a constrained budget environment. Subsequently, the committee will provide oversight of ongoing property accountability and remaining retrograde efforts aimed at returning equipment with remaining military value to home station or in-theater re-utilization. Further, the committee will continue to monitor the disposition of non-standard equipment returning from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to ensure that important items are incorporated into units' tables of equipment, are budgeted for and sustained properly, and that items no longer of military utility are disposed of in the most cost-effective manner possible. The committee will also continue to reexamine reset objectives and requirements in light of a draw-down in total force end strength and several previously unanticipated contingencies.

FORCE READINESS

In the 114th Congress, the committee will hold force readiness as one of its highest priorities and will continue its oversight in this area, focusing not only on the readiness of deployed personnel supporting ongoing operations worldwide, but also on the ability of the services to generate ready and trained forces for unforeseen contingencies, including full-spectrum combat missions should the need arise. Shortfalls in full-spectrum readiness have improved as operational tempo has slowed in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, the most acute equipment and personnel shortfalls have been addressed, and time at home station has increased, allowing for a return to full-spectrum training. However, challenges in key areas, such as U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Southern Command, still exist, namely in the capacity to provide the ready and trained forces needed by these and other geographic combatant commanders. Therefore, the committee will closely monitor how planned and potential additional end strength reductions will impact force readiness. Further, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to prepare for a wider range of possible contingencies and its efforts to restore readiness

in key combat support areas such as logistics, prepositioned stocks, and contracted service support.

LIFE-CYCLE SUSTAINMENT

Without appropriate and timely input from the logistics community, decisions made during system design can create unnecessary sustainment problems that drive millions of dollars in depot-level maintenance once the system is fielded. The committee will focus on reducing the total-ownership costs of weapons systems and equipment by ensuring the Department of Defense is developing, procuring, and modernizing weapons systems and equipment with consideration of life-cycle support and sustainment requirements and cost. In its oversight of the Department's life-cycle sustainment efforts, the committee will monitor the implementation of section 2337 of title 10, United States Code, which requires that each major weapons system be supported by a product support manager and section 832 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81), which requires additional visibility of the operation and support of major weapon systems. The committee will also hold the Department accountable for improving its estimations of total weapon system life-cycle costs to better inform sustainment strategies, such as the cost effectiveness of acquiring technical data from original equipment manufacturers to allow future changes in sustainment path. Furthermore, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department's corrosion control efforts and will monitor resourcing of corrosion prediction and prevention efforts with a focus on increasing the service life of weapons systems while reducing long-term sustainment costs.

DEPOT AND ARSENAL CAPABILITY

A critical piece of equipment sustainment is the capability provided by the Nation's organic arsenals and depots, including air logistics centers and shipyards. The committee is concerned about the health of the organic industrial base in an extended period of declining workload with the formal end of combat operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the completion of Republic of Iraq combat operations-related equipment reset. While some military departments have completed an organic industrial base sustainment plan, the committee is concerned that the Department of Defense continues to lack a comprehensive strategy to ensure U.S. military depots and arsenals are viably positioned and have the workforce, equipment, and facilities for efficient operations to meet the Nation's current requirements, as well as those in the future. The committee will continue oversight of depot and arsenal operations and management, focusing on capital investment in facilities and equipment, the implementation methodology and use of sustainment concepts such as performance-based logistics, the role of public-private partnerships, the use of working capital funds for timely product improvement, and the services' logistics enterprise resource planning systems. Furthermore, the committee will examine how previous efficiency initiatives and workforce reductions impact depot and arsenal capability, how more recent initiatives to increase arsenal and depot visibility among program managers and program executive offices are working, and how well programs and

plans designed to assure the availability of critical organic manufacturing capabilities are being executed.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

The committee will continue to oversee the development of the Department of Defense's strategic workforce plan for its civilian personnel and other initiatives aimed at ensuring that the Department has the human capital required both now and in the future to expertly and capably achieve its critical national security mission. The committee has been particularly concerned about the impact of budget cuts, furloughs, hiring freezes, and lack of training opportunities that have negatively impacted morale and led to an adverse working environment for the Department's almost 800,000 Federal employees. Finally, the committee will focus extensive oversight on workforce sourcing decisions, transparency, and personnel system reform.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

An effective energy strategy for the Department of Defense will increase the operational effectiveness of the military and will enhance the Nation's national and energy security. Therefore, the committee will review the energy strategies promulgated by the Department of Defense and will monitor the Department's energy use on military installations, for military training and operations, as well as opportunities to reduce energy demand through cost-effective investments that enhance combat capability and demonstrate a return on investment.

The committee will also continue its oversight of the Department of Defense and military services' environmental programs and will monitor Department of Defense funding and adherence to Federal, state, and local requirements for cleanup, compliance, and pollution prevention. Specifically, the committee will continue oversight to protect Department of Defense training, testing, and operations from encroachment.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BASING

The Department of Defense is undergoing a significant change in force structure both in the United States and overseas. These changes are being implemented to enhance operational efficiencies and ensure access to future contingency operations. The committee will continue to review all significant domestic and overseas basing proposals to ensure that these proposals adhere to existing statutory limitations. The committee will continue discussions with the Department of Defense and military departments on excess infrastructure capacity associated with military installations to ensure excess infrastructure capacity assessments are based on current infrastructure data and informed by current force structure projections.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMING

The committee will review the Department's military construction program to manage the overall capacity of the Department's infrastructure and to ensure prudent long-term military construction investments are provided.

REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE, AND DISPOSAL

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain almost \$850.3 billion in infrastructure at an annual cost of nearly \$37.0 billion. The committee is concerned that infrastructure inefficiencies result in duplicative operations and uncoordinated investment decisions and will seek to apply best practices across the Department of Defense in order to efficiently maintain the services' taxpayer funded infrastructure.

TOTAL FORCE, PERSONNEL, AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

MANPOWER SUFFICIENT IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO MEET GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

Some argue that military personnel costs have exploded and will continue to rise to unsustainable levels. The committee rejects that assertion because such a budget-oriented focus misses the fundamental question that the committee will assess: What does the Nation need in terms of the quantity of manpower and the quality of that manpower to meet its current and future global military commitments, without undue risk to the Nation? In this context, the fiscal year 2015 budget request proposed to continue to reduce the end strengths of the Army and Marine Corps by 100,000 over a five-year period, which began with the fiscal year 2013 budget request, bringing both services down to approximately pre-9/11 levels. The committee remains concerned with such reductions while those services are still engaged in stability operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, advisor and training missions in the Republic of Iraq and numerous smaller engagements throughout the world. Reflecting that concern, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239), Congress limited the personnel reductions the Army and Marine Corps could execute each year between fiscal years 2015 and 2017, and again in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 (Public Law 113-291) limited the personnel reductions, thereby seeking to prevent a hollowing of the force. The committee will continue to provide aggressive oversight of military manpower levels and force structure to ensure they meet the National Military Strategy. This oversight will seek to provide Active, Guard and Reserve Forces that have manpower levels sufficient to sustain varying scales of activation, while maintaining deployment ratios at or above Department of Defense objectives. Within this focus, the committee will examine closely trends in overall total force structure requirements, end strength, recruiting, retention, morale, benefits and compensation.

MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND MILITARY RESALE PROGRAMS

While some have criticized the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and military resale programs (commissary and exchange stores) as being unnecessary and wasteful and targeted for reductions in appropriated funding, the committee believes the cost efficient sustainment of MWR and military resale programs (commissaries and exchanges) is required to protect quality of life in military communities and maintain the combat readiness of the force. The committee will provide oversight efforts directed toward that end.

Additionally, the committee believes that MWR and military resale programs must remain competitive with private sector entities to ensure that service members and their families benefit fully from these programs. The committee must monitor current practices and policies to ensure that MWR and military resale programs are employing the full range of strategies available to private sector competitors to inform authorized patrons about the benefits associated with these programs and attract them to participate. This is especially true for commissaries that are restricted from using pricing, product, and advertising strategies that are common in the private sector because of legislative and policy barriers. The Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) requires the Department of Defense to review management, food and pricing options for the Defense Commissary System in consultation with an organization experienced in grocery retail analysis to assist in maintaining a competitive and effective commissary system in the future.

MILITARY BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

During the 114th Congress the Department of Defense budget will remain under considerable stress and military benefits will be targeted for reductions. The committee must give close scrutiny to proposals from the Department of Defense and other organizations, both governmental and private sector, calling for funding reductions to military compensation and other benefit programs in order to ensure any proposed change assesses the impact to the all volunteer force. To that end, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239) authorized a Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission to review the full range of compensation and benefit programs that could apply to service members, families, retirees, and survivors, to include programs managed by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Education. The commission’s deliberations must be closely monitored and its recommendations, due at the beginning of 2015, carefully scrutinized by the committee as changes to compensation and benefit programs are considered.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

A continued principal focus of the committee during the 114th Congress will be to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of mental

health services provided to members of the Armed Forces and their families. Particular attention will be given, but not limited to, the suicide prevention efforts undertaken by each military service and the consistency and comprehensiveness of the Department of Defense policy on prevention of suicide among members of the Armed Forces and their families, including methods of collecting and assessing suicide data. An additional focus will be the adequacy of suicide prevention programs for members of the special forces and their families.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

The committee will continue to hold the Department of Defense and the military services accountable to address sexual assaults in the military and ensure victims are provided the appropriate care and support. In that regard, the committee will continue rigorous oversight in this area, focusing not only on sexual assault prevention and response, but on the capability of the military justice system and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to prosecute and bring offenders to justice. In that regard, the committee looks forward to receiving the recommendations of the independent reviews and assessments of judicial proceedings of military sexual assault cases that were mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239). The committee will actively oversee the Department of Defense’s implementation of the recommendations by the Responses Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel to improve programs and policies to prevent and address sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces. In addition, the committee will focus on efforts to prevent and address retaliation and ostracism of members of the Armed Forces who report sex-related crimes.

MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The committee is committed to a robust military health system which provides quality health care for service members, retirees, and their families. The committee will continue to explore innovative strategies to improve the health status of beneficiaries and control cost growth within the military health care system, while ensuring access to the benefit at a reasonable cost to beneficiaries. Additionally, to ensure that the military health system is efficient and effective, the committee will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Defense Health Agency and closely examine the Department’s plans to reduce the capacity and availability of military medical treatment facilities. The committee remains committed to a robust medical research and development program focused on military health issues, such as blast injury mitigation and treatment, combat trauma care, military infectious diseases, and medical biological/chemical defense. Robust oversight on the progress towards implementing the requirements for an electronic health record that is inter-operable with the electronic health record of the Veterans Administration will continue during the 114th Congress. Particular attention will be focused on health information technology systems and the acquisition process for military health related procurement. Finally, the committee will evaluate the recommendations regarding the military health care benefit

from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, established by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239) to modernize the military compensation and retirement systems.

WOUNDED WARRIOR CARE

The committee will continue its efforts to assess the adequacy of the Department of Defense policies and programs for wounded and disabled service members and their families. In this regard, the committee will continue to evaluate the Department of Defense's ability to integrate and coordinate the multitude of services and resources available to assist the wounded and disabled, not only from other Federal agencies, but also from the private sector. In addition, the committee will monitor the Department's progress toward establishing uniform performance outcome measurements for use by each military service in the Warrior in Transition programs. Particular focus will be given to policies regarding the selection of individuals employed by the Warrior in Transition Programs and mechanisms for continually assessing the quality of the services provided by such programs. The congressionally mandated Department of Defense centers of excellence will be reviewed for opportunities to expand capabilities and make improvements. The committee will continue to closely monitor translational research and treatment advances in traumatic brain injury. Particular attention will be focused on the Integrated Disability Evaluation System with a view to ensuring the fairness, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of the program and to simplify the process for service members.

MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

We remain a Nation on a war-footing. Consequently, the families of the members of the Armed Forces continue to experience the strains associated with deployments. In this regard, the committee will continue to focus on the needs of military families and to identify the programs and policies that can be developed or modified to improve their lives. As end strengths of the Armed Forces are reduced and resources shrink, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense and military service family support programs to ensure the continued viability of these programs to address the needs of military families. In addition, the committee will continue close oversight on the quality of services and hiring practices at Department of Defense child development centers.

PRISONER OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue active oversight of the Department of Defense's Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) activities, as the committee of jurisdiction. Specifically, the committee will assess the implementation of modifications to the requirements for accounting for members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees listed as missing by establishing a single defense agency for POW/MIA affairs directed by the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public

Law 113–291). In addition, the committee will assess the progress towards meeting the requirement that the accounting effort achieve significantly higher levels of identification by 2015.

WOMEN IN SERVICE

The Department of Defense and the military services continue to work toward opening all military occupations to women. During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to aggressively evaluate the process for identifying occupational specialties that may open to women with particular focus on the occupational standards established for each occupational specialty. The committee will monitor the military service's personnel policies and assignment practices for those occupational specialties which have recently opened to women. Further, the committee will focus on the long-term plans for assuring retention and advancement for women in newly opened career fields.

MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

OVERVIEW

The committee will devote particular attention to the examination of military equipment modernization strategies with respect to overall military capability against all threats and adversaries. The committee will conduct oversight of the full range of modernization and investment issues facing the Department of Defense, to include the impacts of current budget uncertainty and sequestration. How Congress chooses to fund Department of Defense future acquisition programs will dramatically affect the size, health, age, and supporting industrial base of the air, sea, and land force structure available to U.S. forces in support of the National Military Strategy and current strategic defense planning guidance, as well as the Nation's vital interests. The committee, through rigorous oversight and legislative action, will develop strategies to help mitigate cost growth and schedule delays among all categories of acquisition programs. The committee will also assess the need for legislative action by examining causes of these problems including: late determination of requirements, requirements growth, and failure to properly control requirements changes; inadequate analyses of alternatives, concurrency in test and evaluation, military services proceeding prematurely with development of immature technology; poor cost estimating; inadequate funding profiles; over-estimation of potential production rates; and program instability.

In particular, the committee will also seek to ensure the military services have the appropriate authorities, capabilities, and force structure to defend against any potential challenges posed by the advanced anti-access capabilities of countries, such as the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

ARMY AND MARINE CORPS ARMORED VEHICLE MODERNIZATION

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' evolving plans to recapitalize their entire fleets of heavy and medium-weight armored vehicles over the next two decades, including the M1 Abrams tank, M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Stryker Vehicles, the family of Amphibious Combat Vehicles, upgrades for

Light Armored Vehicles, upgrades to Paladin artillery systems, as well as the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle (AMPV) research and development program, the planned replacement for Army M113 troop carrier vehicles. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of armored vehicles is properly upgraded and reset after very heavy use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and that the Army and Marine Corps continue to field vehicles that stay ahead of the evolving anti-vehicle threat posed by improvised explosive devices and advances in anti-tank guided missiles. Consistent with committee oversight activity from the 113th Congress, the committee will also continue to assess and mitigate the impacts of budget uncertainty and sequestration on the Armored Combat Vehicle industrial base.

ARMY AND MARINE CORPS TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLES

The committee will focus oversight efforts on the Army and Marine Corps' tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) modernization strategies for their families of light, medium, and heavy TWVs, the family of mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles, line haul tractor trailers, and construction equipment. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of TWVs and MRAPs are properly modernized and reset after very heavy operational use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will closely monitor TWV fleet size and composition and focus on ways to adequately sustain the TWV industrial base given significant decreases in overall requirements, as well as attempt to mitigate the impacts to modernization of the TWV fleet that are a result of sequestration and the current fiscal environment. Of particular interest to the committee will be the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program. The committee will closely monitor the JLTV budget, cost, schedule, and performance as the program transitions from development into low-rate initial production. The committee will continue to coordinate with the Government Accountability Office regarding the Department's efforts in the long-term management and sustainment of the TWV fleet and its associated industrial base.

ARMY AVIATION PROGRAMS

Legacy rotorcraft platforms, including the CH-47, UH-60, AH-64, and OH-58, will likely continue to be operated at high operational tempos, in very challenging environments. These high operational tempos will require continued upgrade and reset efforts. The committee will focus on the need to continue to upgrade and reset these critical equipment platforms for both the Active and Reserve Components through formal activities and legislative action. In addition to its oversight of aviation requirements for, and performance in combat operations, the committee will continue to provide oversight of the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI), as well as future Army combat aviation programs. In particular, the committee will focus on the Army's restructured acquisition plan resulting from the cancellation of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, the divestment of the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior fleet, and the rationale for transferring AH-64 Apache helicopters from the National Guard to the Active Component. The committee oversight

activity will build on the actions from the 113th Congress and continue to gain a better understanding of the Army's intent with the ARI. The committee will also conduct oversight on the initiation of modernization programs, such as the Joint Future Theater Lift program, as well as the critical need for advanced aircraft survivability equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving surface-to-air missile threats.

ARMY COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS

Given the growing importance of battlefield communications networks in global combat operations, the committee will continue to aggressively monitor the Army's plans for its future battlefield network and the supporting research programs now in place, to include rigorous oversight of the Army's Tactical Network Modernization roadmap. In particular, the committee will focus oversight efforts on the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) and the follow-on efforts resulting from the restructured Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) programs. The committee will work with the Army to ensure that the future battlefield capabilities it creates results in a network-enabled, rather than a network-dependent, Army. The committee, in coordination with the Department of Defense, aims to empower soldiers to accomplish their missions, rather than create an Army that is dependent on its communications network, so much so that it is not able to function without it. As such, the committee will also help direct the Army's limited modernization resources to investments that will have the greatest short-, mid- and long-term impact for the end user.

ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

The committee will continue to devote substantial attention to the oversight of the research, development, and procurement of organizational clothing and individual equipment and other complementary personnel protection programs. Focus areas will continue to include but are not limited to: advances in weight reduction ("lightening the load") in clothing and individual equipment; development of specific personnel protection systems for military servicewomen; small arms and small caliber ammunition modernization with particular emphasis on the Army's individual carbine program, modular handgun program, and enhanced performance small caliber rounds; improved combat helmets to help mitigate traumatic brain injury; improved combat uniforms; and the overall management of these associated niche, but highly critical industrial bases.

TACTICAL AIRCRAFT FORCE STRUCTURE

The committee will continue to focus on the size and composition of the tactical aircraft force structure. Delays in the initial operational capability of the F-35 aircraft have the potential to result in future tactical aircraft force structure shortfalls if service life extensions for legacy aircraft cannot be accomplished.

With an operational requirement of 1,056 strike fighters, the Department of the Navy projects it can manage a strike fighter shortfall of 35 aircraft in 2023. The committee will focus on inventory

objectives of F/A-18E/F and EA-18G procurement, the effect of delays in the procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18 A through D service life limits, and mission capability of the AV-8B aircraft.

The Air Force has stated a strike fighter operational requirement of 1,900 aircraft, and, under current procurement and retirement plans, the Air Force projects its inventory to fall below that requirement as older aircraft are retired. The Air Force had planned to retire approximately 100 A-10 close air support aircraft in fiscal year 2015, but the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) included a provision that would prohibit the Air Force from retiring any A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2015. That provision would also allow 36 A-10 aircraft from the active component to be placed into back-up aircraft inventory (BAI) status subject to a certification by the Secretary of Defense concerning the requirement to place these aircraft into BAI status to enable readiness of the Air Force’s fighter aircraft fleets. Delays in deliveries of the F-35A aircraft and in achieving its initial operational capability will affect the Air Force fighter aircraft inventory. In the 114th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of: aircraft retirement plans; the F-22 and F-35 aircraft programs; and life extension and modernization programs for the F-15, F-16, and A-10 aircraft.

F-35/JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F-35/Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, particularly issues related to program cost, schedule, and performance.

With the JSF approximately 80 percent through a 15-year development process, the committee believes that there is still risk in completing JSF development within currently projected cost, schedule, and performance parameters. The committee’s primary concerns include software development, completing modifications prior to Marine Corps initial operational capability (IOC) in 2015 and Air Force IOC in 2016, addressing F135 engine problems, and the ramp-up in production planned for 2015 and beyond. In the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to receive JSF annual reports and receive testimony and briefings from both the Department of Defense and an independent review from the Government Accountability Office.

BOMBER FORCE STRUCTURE

The committee understands that the Air Force will continue investments of significant fiscal resources for technology development and engineering, manufacturing and design of a next-generation, and long-range strike bomber aircraft during the next few years. While many details regarding the specific requirements and capabilities of the new bomber remain highly classified, the committee will maintain aggressive oversight of the new bomber acquisition strategy to ensure that the Air Force develops an affordable aircraft to timely meet future requirements and recapitalize the current fleet of B-52, B-1, and B-2 long-range strike bomber aircraft.

During the many years of development, manufacturing, and eventual fielding of the new bomber aircraft, it will be imperative

that the Air Force continues to maintain, modernize, and upgrade the existing fleet of bomber aircraft in order to preserve effective capabilities needed to meet current and future threat target sets. The committee will continue to maintain oversight of current bomber aircraft inventory requirements and modernization plans to ensure that the Air Force maintains a sufficient, credible, and lethal fixed-wing aircraft with conventional and strategic weapons delivery capability to support all aspects of the National Military Strategy.

AERIAL REFUELING AIRCRAFT

During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to maintain active oversight of aerial refueling aircraft modernization and recapitalization programs of the Air Force. Currently, the KC-135 and KC-10 are the primary providers of U.S. air-refueling critical capabilities in executing operations in support of the National Military Strategy. Given the limited fiscal resources available to the Air Force for recapitalization of the KC-135 fleet of 395 aircraft, this will result in having to maintain and operate KC-135 aircraft that will have been in the fleet for over 70 years. Therefore, timely and efficient recapitalization of the Air Force's KC-135 tanker fleet with new KC-46 aerial refueling aircraft is critical. Additionally, the Air Force plans to perform an avionics modernization program on the KC-10 fleet of tankers to maintain relevant and effective aerial refueling capabilities until a successor program to the KC-46 aircraft is begun to replace the KC-10 aircraft.

The committee will continue to assess the KC-46 program to ensure it meets the U.S. Government's cost, schedule, and execution goals, which includes the projected initial operating capability date during calendar year 2018.

INTERTHEATER AND INTRATHEATER AIRLIFT

Regarding intertheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee continues to remain concerned about Air Force plans to reduce the intertheater airlift aircraft inventory below 301 total aircraft in support of the defense strategic guidance issued in January 2012. Additionally, the committee has been concerned about Air Force plans to cancel the avionics modernization program (AMP) for C-130 aircraft since the absence of this modification would limit the future utility of C-130 aircraft, resulting in future Air Force plans to further reduce the inventory of intertheater airlift aircraft. Accordingly, the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) included a provision that would prohibit the Air Force from canceling the avionics modernization program. The committee will continue to review the C-130 modernization program to ensure it is capable of meeting intertheater airlift requirements.

Regarding intratheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee believes that a minimum Air Force intratheater airlift inventory of 318 general support and 40 direct support aircraft, as reflected in section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-705), should be sufficient to meet both Air Force and Army operational requirements in support of combatant commander operational plans being developed to execute the

defense strategic guidance issued in January 2012. The committee, however, remains skeptical that the Air Force has yet to fully embrace and institutionalize effective concepts of operations in support of Army direct support airlift requirements and will maintain close oversight of Air Force implementation of the January 27, 2012, memorandum of understanding agreed upon by the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by the Chiefs of Staff of the Air Force and the Army.

The committee will continue close oversight of Air Force intertheater and intratheater airlift aircraft inventories and capabilities during the 114th Congress to ensure that a robust and effective fleet of airlift aircraft is maintained in the Air Force inventory to meet all mobility airlift requirements of the Department of Defense.

SURFACE WARFARE PROGRAMS

The Department of the Navy must collectively expand the core capabilities of U.S. seapower to achieve a blend of peacetime engagement and major combat operations capabilities. In pursuing this goal, the committee will provide oversight of the composition, capacity, and capabilities of the surface fleet. Specifically, the committee will assess the President's budget request to ensure compliance with the aircraft carrier force structure requirements associated with section 5062 of title 10, United States Code. The committee will also assess the large and small surface combatant requirements to ensure oversight of the force structure and the associated weapons and sensors employed on the surface force. As part of the weapons and sensors oversight, the committee will review the requirements associated with the Air and Missile Defense Radar, anti-ship missile capabilities and Littoral Combat Ship mission modules. Finally, the committee will review the combat logistics forces to ensure sufficient capacity is available to support the surface combat forces.

As part of this oversight, the committee will continue to place a significant emphasis on improving affordability in shipbuilding programs through: ensuring stable requirements; the use of acquisition best practices; stability within the overall program; increased reliance on common systems and open architecture; industrial base capacity, process, and facility improvements at the shipyards.

UNDERSEA WARFARE PROGRAMS

The ability to operate freely at sea is one of the most important enablers of joint and interagency operations, and sea control requires capabilities in all aspects of the maritime domain. There are many challenges to our ability to exercise sea control, perhaps none as significant as the growing number of nations operating submarines, both advanced diesel-electric and nuclear propelled. Exercising sea control in the undersea domain is essential to maintaining the freedom of navigation in support of U.S. maritime interests. The committee will continue to review the undersea domain to ensure warfare dominance. Specifically, the committee will review long-term plans to reverse the decline in the attack submarine force structure. The committee will also assess whether sufficient resources are available for the recapitalization of the ballistic mis-

sile submarine forces. Finally, the committee will assess the weapons and sensors employed in the undersea domain to retain maritime dominance, to include the capacity and capabilities of the heavy weight torpedo.

As part of this oversight, the committee will place specific emphasis on the efficacy of multi-year procurements, rigorous assessment of requirements, and retention of sufficient industrial base capacity.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS

Manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) system programs have come to constitute a significant component of the overall Department of Defense force structure. The capability provided by these assets is critical to sustaining deterrence and warfighting capability of U.S. forces. The committee notes that the Air Force had planned to retire the U-2 aircraft in fiscal year 2016, but the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) included a provision that would prohibit the Air Force from taking any action to retire, or prepare to retire, any U-2 aircraft in fiscal year 2015. The committee also supports the preservation of Global Hawk ISR capabilities since combatant requirements for ISR provided by both the U-2 and Global Hawk aircraft are not presently fully satisfied.

The committee will focus on the budget, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes of major manned and unmanned aerial systems programs and examine the ISR enterprise for balance in collection and analysis capabilities. Also, close examination of the Office of the Secretary of Defense ISR policy formulation and oversight has been and will continue to be of interest to the committee. Long-standing concerns of the committee remain: lack of an adequate long-term ISR architecture and acquisition strategy; lack of supporting analysis for programmatic decisions; failure to balance collection programs data output with adequate resources to process, exploit, and disseminate data and analysis; and unnecessary proliferation of manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors. The committee expects the Joint Staff and Joint Requirements Oversight Council to take a more active role in coordinating ISR system acquisition and coordinating employment with the combatant commanders.

EMERGING ADVANCED WEAPONS CAPABILITIES

Department of Defense investment in science and technology often leads to the development of new advanced weapons capabilities that contribute to the technological superiority of U.S. military forces. Maintaining technology overmatch of current and potential adversaries is a significant part of the qualitative advantage of U.S. forces, but is increasingly difficult in an environment of globalized technologies and asymmetric combinations of high-tech and low-tech capabilities. The committee will continue to monitor technological developments and support transition of the most promising ones, such as directed energy, hypersonics, and autonomy.

In the 113th Congress, the committee maintained a focus particularly on the directed energy programs of the Department. The results achieved by these programs in the past have not always met expectations, although recent technical advances appear promising. The committee continues to support these efforts, especially as they support missile defense and other emerging concepts for countering anti-access and area denial threats.

In the 114th Congress, the committee will more closely examine organizing concepts provided by the military services and the Office of Secretary of Defense as demonstration projects become viable programs and the respective services develop acquisition plans in support of fielding directed energy capabilities. Additionally, the committee will expand its focus to take a similar look at other emerging advanced weapons capabilities, such as hypersonics and autonomy, to see how they can contribute to new security strategies, and to ensure that they are supported by rigorous technical analysis and relevant concepts of employment.

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

The committee oversees the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and nuclear policies and programs of the Department of Defense to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. The committee will place particular emphasis on oversight of the Department of Energy and Department of Defense's nuclear modernization plans, including but not limited to infrastructure investments, warhead life extension programs, stockpile stewardship and management plans, delivery system modernization, nuclear command and control, cost savings and efficiency initiatives, and security.

The committee will conduct close oversight of implementation of corrective actions resulting from the Department of Defense's Nuclear Enterprise Review. The committee will also track the Administration's funding of the nuclear enterprise to ensure sufficient resources are provided and allocated effectively and efficiently across Department of Energy and Department of Defense requirements. The committee will emphasize oversight of major acquisition programs that will recapitalize and form the core of the U.S. nuclear deterrent for decades into the future, including the *Ohio*-class Replacement Submarine, the Ground-based Strategic Deterrent system, the Long-range Strike Bomber, the Long-range Standoff weapon, and their associated nuclear warheads. Alongside overseeing and authorizing U.S. nuclear weapon programs, the committee will also closely monitor foreign nuclear weapon development and modernization programs as well as arms control commitments around the world.

In addition to programs, the committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's nuclear policy and posture, extended deterrence policy, arms control activities, nuclear nonproliferation activities, and force structure requirements. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of the Administration's nuclear weapons policies, including changes to nuclear weapon employment policies and efforts to reduce U.S. nuclear forces. The committee will also review the effectiveness of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense's organization and management of the nuclear

enterprise, including coordination of plans and policies through the joint Nuclear Weapons Council and alignment of the Naval Reactors program with Department of Defense requirements such as the *Ohio*-class Replacement Program. Finally, the committee will conduct oversight of the performance, efficiency, governance, and management of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, laboratory and production site management and operations, workforce sustainment, and defense nuclear clean-up efforts.

MISSILE DEFENSE

The committee oversees the Department of Defense's efforts to develop, test, and field layered missile defense capabilities to protect the United States, its deployed forces, and its friends and allies against the full range of ballistic missile threats. Particular emphasis will be placed on U.S. homeland missile defense capabilities (including the Missile Defense Agency's proposal and strategy for acquiring a Redesigned Kill Vehicle), European Phased Adaptive Approach implementation, continued implementation of other regional Phased Adaptive Approaches, ensuring an adequate hedging strategy for the protection of the U.S. homeland, developmental and operational testing, force structure and inventory requirements, sensor-to-shooter integration, and science and technology investments in areas such as directed energy. In the 114th Congress, the committee will closely watch the Administration's funding of the missile defense program, seeking the cost-effective application of resources, and looking for opportunities to enhance stability of the industrial base.

The committee will continue to monitor foreign ballistic missile threats and identify opportunities to strengthen international missile defense cooperation with allies and partners such as the State of Israel, Japan, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Republic of Korea, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states. Department of Defense oversight and management of missile defense activities, including the roles, responsibilities, and acquisition policies and procedures of the Missile Defense Agency and military services will also be reviewed. The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's missile defense policy and posture, including close examination of any Administration efforts that may limit missile defenses as part of a treaty or agreement, and implications for United States, regional, global security and strategic stability.

The committee also intends to pay particular attention to the Army's PATRIOT air and missile defense program. The Army's plans call for significant investment over a long-term and the committee will ensure these plans are cost-effective, based on proven technology, support continued Foreign Military Sales, and provide maximum deployable capability to combatant commanders and the warfighter.

NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE

The committee oversees the national security space programs of the Department of Defense, including combat support agencies and elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the intel-

ligence community. The committee will place particular attention on space acquisition strategies that provide necessary warfighter capability, while reducing cost and technical risk, and promoting greater stability in the industrial base; provide assured access to space, including the transition from non-allied rocket engines to domestic sources, and providing opportunities for competition, while maintaining mission assurance through our national security space launch programs; mitigate risks that could create gaps in space capabilities for key warfighter needs; provide affordability and increasing government buying power; invest in science and technology and improve the maturation of technologies into baseline programs; appropriately leverage commercial satellite services; provide exploitation of space sensor data to maximize effectiveness and efficiency; improve the synchronization between satellite, ground and terminal acquisition programs; and promote efforts that develop and sustain the technical workforce.

The committee will continue to monitor foreign space threats and carefully assess the Department's space security and defense program to include space situational awareness, space protection, space control, and operationally responsive space activities. The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's space policy, posture, and any related international agreements. Lastly, renewed attention will be placed on efforts to improve governance and management across the national security space enterprise.

EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

INVESTMENT IN FUTURE CAPABILITIES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Department of Defense faces difficult choices as it balances the competing needs of capabilities for current operations and those projected for future conflicts. In order to address the latter, investments must be made in the Department's Science and Technology (S&T) programs, and aligned appropriately with continued development and procurement programs to position the Department to meet future challenges. S&T investments can also be leveraged to support broader acquisition improvements or defense industrial base sustainment activities by creatively utilizing competitive or operational prototyping, technical transition or integration, or requirements maturation.

Preparing for the challenges of the future, the Department must create a portfolio of technological options that can address the perceived threats identified in the defense planning process, as well as the emergence of unanticipated events or strategic competitors. Emphasis should be placed not only on support to acquisition roadmaps, but also on capabilities to institutionalize adaptability. Doing that will require better integration of intelligence into the S&T cycle, as well as better cognizance of global developments and industry-based independent research and development. It will also require a solid foundation to allow for adaptability, which means having world-class people and facilities in which to conduct certain types of research and development.

The committee will continue to encourage the Department to plan and execute a balanced S&T program that ensures the U.S. military can retain superiority for future generations. The com-

mittee will also continue to examine how S&T investments are integrated into strategic and operational plans to also ensure that the investments being made, including in people and infrastructure, are properly aligned.

CYBER OPERATIONS CAPABILITIES

Cyber operations have taken on an increasingly important role in military operations as well as overall national security. Accordingly, the committee will continue to closely scrutinize the Department of Defense's cyber operations, organization, manning and funding to ensure that the military has the freedom of maneuver to conduct the range of missions in the Nation's defense, and when called upon, to support other interagency and international partners. An important oversight role for Congress regarding the conduct of defensive and offensive cyber operations will be to ensure that the proper legal and policy frameworks are in place and are followed. The committee will also continue to scrutinize military cyber operations to ensure that they are properly integrated into the combatant commander's operational plans, and to ensure that adequate capabilities exist or are in development to employ these cyberspace operational tools with rigor and discretion to support a full range of options for the Nation's decision makers. In the course of monitoring the cybersecurity posture of the military, the committee will also continue to examine the effects of globalization on the assured integrity of microelectronics and software.

INFORMATION OPERATIONS

Engagement with foreign audiences and nuanced understanding of the information environment is pivotal in navigating the 21st century security environment. Whether one is trying to influence nation-state actors or potential allies, counter violent extremist groups, or identify and counter efforts at deception or misinformation, strategic communication and information operations are key elements to success on the battlefield and an important tool to prevent or deter conflict before escalation. The ability to carry out such operations against nation-states, as well as individuals and small terrorist groups, requires a flexible and adaptable strategy, as well as comprehensive understanding of specific groups, their motivating ideologies, and the tools to translate that understanding into action.

With the resurgence of violent extremist groups like Al Shabaab, Boko Haram, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the need for the Department of Defense to plan and execute effective information operations is continuing to grow. Recent examples illustrate how these groups are utilizing social media to support the radicalization process, as well as planning, financing and command and control for terrorist acts. The committee will pay particular attention to the Department of Defense's information operations and strategic communication strategies and how these tools will be further developed and adapted to support warfighter needs in a changing security environment, while maintaining appropriate controls for privacy and civil liberties. These activities enable military operations and military support to diplomacy, and the committee will continue to conduct oversight of these critical capabilities, with

focus on how these tools are integrated into theater security cooperation plans and leveraged with related tools for cyber and security force assistance.

COMPROMISES OF NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION AND INSIDER THREATS

In the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to identify and mitigate the threats to military operations stemming from the compromise of a large amount of classified information by a former Department of Defense contractor. Additionally, the committee will monitor efforts to mitigate future compromises by overseeing the implementation of the Executive Order directing improvements to insider threat programs within the executive branch as well as the Department of Defense's compliance with the requirements of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) regarding the Department's security practices, audit capabilities, and information-sharing policies.

USE OF FORCE IN COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AND AREAS OF ACTIVE HOSTILITIES

The committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over the use of force in counterterrorism operations outside of the United States and areas of active hostilities. While the use of force in this area will be overseen in all aspects, the committee will pay particular attention to special operations and activities and the interagency coordination that occurs with the U.S. intelligence community. In conducting this oversight, the committee will also review and consider presidential policy guidance documents and similar Executive Branch directives, and ensure that counterterrorism operations conducted outside of the United States and areas of active hostilities are in line with broader national security objectives, strategies, and resources. Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence matters of the Department of Defense in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Pursuant to clause 2(d) of House rule X, I am submitting the oversight plan of the Committee on the Budget for the 114th Congress. The oversight plan was adopted during our Committee's organizational meeting on January 22, 2015.

Sincerely,

THOMAS PRICE, M.D.
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Resolved: That the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, adopts as the Oversight Plan of the Committee on the Budget for the 114th Congress the following:

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERSIGHT

Clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House requires each Committee to adopt and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration an oversight plan by February 15 of the first session of each Congress. The Budget Committee's oversight responsibilities include both the breadth of the Federal budget and its legislative jurisdiction.

Under clause 1(d)(1) of House Rule X, the primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year. This concurrent resolution sets spending and revenue levels in aggregate, across 21 budget functions, and provides allocations of spending levels for each Committee of Congress.

Although the subject matter of the budget is inherently broad, in addition to oversight of the budget and the economy, the Committee's formal oversight responsibility includes laws governing the budget process and the agencies responsible for administering elements of those laws. Under clauses 1(d)(1)–(3) of House Rule X, the major laws falling within its oversight include the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, the Budget Control Act of 2011, and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. The two agencies with primary responsibility for administering elements of these laws, and hence which fall under the Committee's jurisdiction, are the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

In addition to these general oversight responsibilities, the Budget Committee has the special oversight responsibility under clause 3(c) of House Rule X to study the effect of budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation and to regularly report the results of such studies to the House.

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Budget Priorities

In the process of developing the annual concurrent budget resolution, the Committee will hold hearings and receive testimony from Members of Congress, Cabinet-level and other Federal officials,

State and local officials, and expert witnesses to review the budget and economic outlook, the President's budget submissions and other budget proposals.

The Committee will review and pursue budget process reform legislation.

The Committee will assess the performance of Federal agencies in both administration and service delivery by reviewing performance data in the President's budget submissions and the relevant reports and audits of the Government Accountability Office and the Offices of the Inspectors General.

The Committee will study the budgetary effects of existing law and proposed legislation, as well as government regulation on government spending, and explore ways of reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in government agencies.

The Committee will draw on the authorizing Committees' Views and Estimates on the President's Budget, which are submitted to it pursuant to section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, to coordinate its oversight activities with other Committees.

The Committee will continue to review the budgetary treatment of assistance to, and ongoing operations of, the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac).

Budget Enforcement

The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of OMB's implementation of budget submission, control, execution, and enforcement procedures under the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, the Budget Control Act of 2011, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, and other applicable laws.

The Committee will assess the extent to which both the President's budget submissions and the budget resolutions for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 comply with applicable budget laws. The Committee will also work to ensure compliance of the budget-related provisions of H. Res. 5.¹

As part of these responsibilities, the Chair may provide authoritative guidance concerning the impact of a legislative proposition on the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority and revenues.²

The Committee will enforce spending limitations and improve accountability under the Cutgo Rule, prohibiting consideration of a bill, joint resolution, amendment or conference report if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing direct spending outlays.³

In addition, the Committee will monitor reclassifications of budget accounts, reestimates of the subsidies of credit programs, consistency in cost estimates for direct spending and tax bills, compli-

¹H. Res. 5 (114th Congress) extended and revised the Rules of the House for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress. Section 3 (Separate Orders) of H. Res. 5 also set forth additional budgetary controls.

²This authority may be found in clause 4 of rule XXIX of the Rules of the House.

³Cutgo may be found in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House.

ance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and other relevant laws, in the development of budget projections, and changes in spend-out rates for discretionary programs, and implementation of performance plans.

The Committee will work with the Appropriations Committee and the authorizing Committees to ensure that spending and tax legislation do not breach the levels provided for in the budget resolution, as required under sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 or violate the budget provisions of the Rules of the House.

Direct Spending and Tax Expenditures

The Committee will request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures and direct spending by the Federal Government, and whether they are the most appropriate and efficient means to achieve specified public policy goals.

Economic Policy

The Committee will study how economic policies affect the Federal budget. The Committee will also study monetary policy and its effects on the Federal budget. The Committee plans to take testimony from the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Janet L. Yellen, to review economic conditions, fiscal conditions, and monetary policy.

OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE

The following are the Committee's initial plans for hearings and other oversight activities.

First Session (2015)

Winter 2015—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Winter 2015—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget: Director of OMB.

Winter 2015—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget: Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2015—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget: Members of Congress.

Winter 2015—Possible additional hearings on the President's budget and the budget outlook.

Winter 2015—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Winter 2015—Possible hearing on Federal entitlement spending and the long-term budget outlook.

Winter-Spring 2015—Possible field hearings.

Spring 2015—Hearing on the economy: Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Summer 2015—Hearing on the long-term budget outlook.

Possible additional hearings to review federal spending, taxes, deficits, debt, the federal budget process, and the economy.

Second Session (2016)

Winter 2016—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Winter 2016—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget: Director of OMB.

Winter 2016—Hearing on the economy.

Winter 2016—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget: Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2016—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget: Members of Congress.

Winter 2016—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate in developing the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Summer 2016—Hearing on the long-term budget outlook.

Possible additional hearings may include reviewing federal spending, taxes, deficits, debt, and the economy.

The Committee will also conduct research, examine programs, and prepare analyses of fiscal and economic issues with an emphasis on providing for a more effective and accountable Federal government.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 20, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
*Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ AND CHAIRMAN MILLER: The Committee on Education and the Workforce considered and adopted its Oversight Plan for the 114th Congress on January 21, 2015. In accordance with House Rule X, I am pleased to provide the attached hardcopy version of the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the 114th Congress. This is in addition to the electronic copy of the oversight plan that was forwarded to your staff.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION PLAN

1. Adoption of an Oversight Plan

Each standing committee of the House is required to formally adopt an oversight plan at the beginning of each Congress. Specifically, clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives states in part:

Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration.

2. Jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives vests in the Committee on Education and the Workforce (Committee) jurisdiction over issues dealing with students, education, workers, and workplace policy. Specifically, clause 1(e) of Rule X vests the committee with jurisdiction over the following subject-matter:

- (1) *Child labor;*
- (2) *Gallaudet University and Howard University and Hospital;*
- (3) *Convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce;*
- (4) *Food programs for children in schools;*
- (5) *Labor standards and statistics;*
- (6) *Education or labor generally;*
- (7) *Mediation and arbitration of labor disputes;*
- (8) *Regulation or prevention of importation of foreign laborers under contract;*
- (9) *Workers' compensation;*
- (10) *Vocational rehabilitation;*
- (11) *Wages and hours of labor;*
- (12) *Welfare of miners; and*
- (13) *Work incentive programs.*

3. General Oversight Responsibilities

Clause 2 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides in part:

(a) The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in—

- (1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of—*
 - (A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws; and*

- (B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and
 - (2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.
- (b)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) shall review and study on a continuing basis—
- (A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;
 - (B) the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;
 - (C) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction (whether or not a bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto); and
 - (D) Future research and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction.

Clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides:

- (n)(1) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the committee on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize.
- (2) A hearing described in subparagraph (1) shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement as documented by any report the committee has received from a Federal Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General of the United States.
- (o) Each committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing in any session in which the committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from auditors of any Federal agency that the committee may authorize to hear testimony on such disclaimers from representatives of any such agency.
- (p) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing on issues raised by reports issued by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that Federal programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the “high-risk list” or the “high-risk series.”

4. Exercise of Oversight Responsibilities

The American people deserve an open, accountable government that spends taxpayer money efficiently and wisely. Rather than turning a blind eye to mismanaged resources or a failure to govern

effectively, Congress must use its constitutional authority to ensure our laws are properly enforced, taxpayer money is spent appropriately, and government policy does not harm the American people.

The oversight of federal programs and activities conducted by committees is a critical part of this effort. Oversight is a constitutional prerogative and responsibility of the Congress and is a core objective of the Committee. Accordingly, the Committee will thoroughly oversee and investigate the various agencies, departments, and programs within its jurisdiction. In so doing, the Committee will actively consult with House committees having concurrent or related jurisdiction. In its oversight proceedings, the Committee will make full use of hearings in Washington, D.C., and of regional field hearings to ensure all relevant voices are heard and made part of the official record. Among other investigative techniques, the Committee will visit relevant sites, correspond with affected parties, and review audits and investigations by the Congressional Research Service, the Government Accountability Office, the United States Attorney General, and the Offices of the Inspectors General of the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services, among others.

The Committee will continue to demand and lead aggressive oversight in its areas of jurisdiction. Under the House Rules, the Committee has jurisdiction over programs and statutes administered and enforced by the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Justice, and independent agencies within its jurisdiction. The Committee will continue to ensure these programs and statutes are administered consistent with the appropriate federal role and operated in an effective and efficient manner, as well as follow congressional intent in their scope, activities, and operations.

The Committee has identified several particular areas for oversight and investigation in the 114th Congress. These areas are discussed below:

- America's students, parents, administrators, and teachers deserve consistent policies and a federal government that gives them the flexibility to succeed, while ensuring the federal investment is used to improve educational opportunity and support increased academic achievement. The Committee will continue to examine how the administration has implemented the law and utilized the waiver authority under the law to properly execute the intent of the law and the impact of these policies and work to ensure all students have access to a quality education.
- The U.S. Department of Education currently operates more than 80 programs tied to K-12 classrooms, some of which may be duplicative, ineffective, and carry separate sets of burdensome rules and reporting requirements. The Committee will examine these programs to weed out waste and provide states and school districts greater flexibility in the use of federal funds to support the effective use of taxpayer dollars in increasing education achievement for students.
- Access to information can help students make smart decisions as they pursue a higher education. Despite repeated attempts to

enhance transparency in higher education, it is still difficult to find information that can aid the search for the right college or university. Students and families should be able to access the best information in a format that is easy to understand, enabling them to make more informed decisions. The Committee will continue to monitor how the U.S. Department of Education provides information about colleges and universities to students and families.

- Institutions of higher education are subject to myriad federal reporting requirements that can contribute to increased costs. The Committee will continue its oversight of overly burdensome regulatory schemes.

- Last year, Congress passed and the President signed a bipartisan, bicameral bill to fix the nation's broken job training system. The *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* helps workers attain skills for 21st century jobs, provides greater accountability to taxpayers, and helps put Americans back to work. The Committee will work with the Administration to ensure the law is properly implemented.

- Congress must continue its oversight of the implementation of the *Affordable Care Act* on behalf of workers and their families. The Committee will continue to investigate how the law is affecting employers' ability to provide quality, affordable health care to employees, including educators and school-staff.

- The committee will conduct oversight and investigations, as appropriate, to ensure employee and employer rights under the *National Labor Relations Act* (NLRA) are protected and applied consistently and without bias. The committee will work to ensure the National Labor Relations Board properly fulfills its responsibilities, giving particular scrutiny to the Board's changes to union election rules, decisions affecting long-standing joint-employer standards, and questions regarding whether college athletes are employees under the NLRA.

- The retirement system works best when workers have access to voluntary, robust, portable, and secure savings options. The Committee will monitor the U.S. Department of Labor's activities to ensure rules or regulations benefit the long-term financial security of working families and do not impede the ability of individuals to save for retirement.

- Improving the financial outlook of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is critically important. The recently-passed *Multiemployer Pension Reform Act* took a step in that direction; however, more work needs to be done. The Committee will continue to monitor the PBGC to identify needed pension reforms that will both protect taxpayers and encourage employer participation.

- Open and transparent regulations benefit employers and employees alike. The Committee will work to ensure the executive branch administers the laws as written by Congress in an open and transparent way.

- Finally, the administration has taken many executive actions on policies traditionally within the authority of Congress. The Committee will continue to monitor these actions and push back when the administration oversteps its authority.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 19, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Pursuant to clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please find attached the Oversight Plan for the Committee on Energy and Commerce for the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

(Adopted January 14, 2015)

During the 114th Congress, the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold hearings and conduct rigorous oversight over matters within its jurisdiction. The Committee will conduct thorough oversight, reach conclusions based on an objective review of the facts, and treat witnesses fairly. The Committee will request information in a responsible manner that is calculated to be helpful to the Committee in its oversight responsibilities. The Committee's oversight functions will focus on: 1) cutting government spending through the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse and 2) ensuring laws are adequate to protect the public interest or are being implemented in a manner that protects the public interest, without stifling economic growth.

HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE ISSUES

PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

One year after the opening of the State and Federal exchanges, the Committee in the 114th Congress will continue to examine issues related to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) implementation of Public Law 111–148, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and the related Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111–152. This will include the numerous provisions contained within the law that affect the private insurance market in the United States, the operation of the State and Federal health insurance exchanges, and oversight of these exchanges by the Federal government. The Committee will also continue to examine the law's effects on individuals as well as the regulations and requirements imposed on both small and large businesses, including reporting requirements.

The Committee will also evaluate what controls are in place to prevent bias, waste, fraud, and abuse in the management of PPACA and its programs. The Committee will examine what programs HHS has in place to improve the availability of reliable, consumer-oriented information on the cost and quality of health care goods, services, and providers. The Committee will also examine the status and future of employer-sponsored health care plans as well as the effects of PPACA's enactment on the States. The Committee will examine the impact of PPACA and its implementing regulations on the economy, consumers, and the health care industry, including the provision of subsidies and cost-sharing reductions.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

The Committee will review the management, operations, and activity of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the programs it administers. The Committee will examine and review Medicare and Medicaid management and activity as it relates to ongoing Committee efforts to prevent bias, waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal health care programs, particularly in the implementation of PPACA. The Committee will investigate the process by which CMS implements statutory formulas to set prices for Medicare payment, as well as the effectiveness of those formulas. The Committee will examine the effects that the Medicaid expansion included in PPACA will have on State budgets, the budgets of individuals and families, the budgets of providers currently providing uncompensated care, and the impact it may have on access to health insurance and health care. The Committee will investigate the processes by which CMS prevents bias, waste, fraud, and abuse in the award of government contracts.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND DRUG SAFETY

The Committee will review whether the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is ensuring that regulated drugs are safe, effective, and available to American patients in an expeditious fashion. The Committee will also explore the interplay between these policies and drug innovation, both in the United States and abroad. Further, the Committee will examine FDA's enforcement of current drug safety laws and the issues involved in protecting the nation's supply chains against economically motivated and other forms of adulteration, including those posed by illegal drug supply chains and economically-motivated adulteration. The Committee will examine whether FDA's reorganization efforts are improving the effectiveness of product reviews, or worsening delays and inefficiency in decision-making. The Committee will review FDA's efforts to improve and modernize import-safety screening, and the management of its foreign inspection program.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Committee will examine the roles of various Federal agencies involved in insuring and protecting the public health, including the implementation and management of these programs. In particular, the Committee will review Federal efforts on mental health and pandemic preparedness, including influenza preparedness and the United States' response to the Ebola epidemic and other emerging infectious disease threats from abroad. The Committee will evaluate the Federal response to Ebola and other public health emergencies to better understand the operation and efficacy of key public health programs and to address broader concerns about national all-hazards preparedness and response capacity. Further, the Committee will monitor related spending to ensure the appropriate and efficient use of Federal tax dollars.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to national energy policy, including U.S. policies that relate to the exploration, production, distribution, and consumption of electricity, oil and natural gas, coal, hydroelectric power, nuclear power, and renewable energy. The Committee will examine the impact of government policies and programs on the efficient exploration, production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing, and regulation of domestic energy resources, including issues relating to the nation's energy infrastructure. The Committee will continue to examine safety and security issues relating to energy exploration, production, and distribution.

ELECTRICITY MARKETS

The Committee will review Federal electricity policies of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure that those policies promote competitive wholesale power markets, transmission, and generation infrastructure upgrades, and compliance with relevant statutes. It will also examine the activities of the DOE and FERC relating to electric industry restructuring, protection of consumers, and the development of efficient and vigorous wholesale markets for electricity. It will also continue to examine the activities of the DOE and FERC with respect to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations affecting the electricity sector, including regulatory requirements that may impact consumer prices and reliability of the electricity grid.

MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ITS NATIONAL LABORATORIES

The Committee will continue to oversee the governance, management, and operations issues at DOE, including oversight, management, and operations of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the national laboratories. The Committee's oversight work will include review of the implementation of security and safety reforms at NNSA and DOE facilities, ongoing safety and security matters, the Office of Environmental Management's clean-up program, and DOE's implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The Committee will continue to examine the actions of DOE and the NRC in connection with obligations of these agencies under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, including licensing activities for the Yucca Mountain repository.

DOE ENERGY GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAMS

The Committee will continue to review management and implementation of clean energy and advanced technology grant and loan programs authorized under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and

other statutes; the development of new technologies, products, and businesses including clean energy, advanced coal, nuclear, and other technologies; and the impact of DOE grant, cost-sharing, and loan spending on the domestic supply, manufacture and commercial deployment of clean and advanced energy products and other technologies.

THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

The Committee will continue to review the activities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Committee will examine NRC's budget requests and conduct oversight of the manner in which the Commission discharges its various responsibilities, including licensing activity, the safety and security of nuclear power facilities, and the agency's regulatory changes.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The Committee will continue to review significant rulemakings under the Clean Air Act and the potential economic and job impacts of those rulemakings on the energy, manufacturing, industrial, and construction industries, and other critical sectors of the U.S. economy, as well as any public health and environmental benefits of the regulations. The Committee's review will include oversight of the EPA's decisions, strategies and actions to meet Clean Air Act standards, and the current role of cost, employment and feasibility considerations in Clean Air Act rulemakings. The Committee will also continue to review EPA's implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee will continue to monitor international negotiations on efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions in connection with concerns about global climate change. In addition, the Committee will examine the EPA's efforts to regulate domestic greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act based on its endangerment finding. The Committee will consider whether such agreements and regulatory efforts are scientifically well grounded. The Committee will also review the activities undertaken in this area by DOE, HHS, and other agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction, including efforts to prepare for and respond to weather events and natural disasters in the future.

EPA MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee intends to continue to conduct general oversight of the EPA, including review of the agency's funding decisions, resource allocation, grants, research activities, enforcement actions, relations with State and local governments, public transparency, and respect for economic, procedural, public health, and environmental standards in regulatory actions. The oversight will also include EPA program management and implementation and the use of chemical risk analysis in environmental assessment programs and the Toxic Substances Control Act. In addition, the Committee

will review the government's activities in hydraulic fracturing research and regulation.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

A MODERN COMMUNICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR THE INNOVATION AGE

The Committee will continue to exercise its jurisdiction over wired and wireless communications to ensure our nation's policies governing voice, video, audio, and data services are promoting investment, innovation, and job creation. The country's current regulatory regime takes a siloed approach in which different technological platforms—such as wireline, wireless, broadcast, cable, and satellite—are regulated differently based on regulations that may be decades old. As we move deeper into the Internet era, however, providers are increasingly using these platforms to offer the same or similar services. The Committee will examine whether these regulations should be updated to better meet the communications needs of the country and to ensure its citizens enjoy cutting edge services and the economic benefits they bring.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), including the effect of the FCC's decisions on innovation and the U.S. economy. Among other things, the Committee will evaluate the impact generally of FCC actions on voice, video, audio, and data services, and on public safety. The Committee will pay particular attention to whether the FCC conducts cost-benefit and market analyses before imposing regulations. The Committee will also conduct oversight to ensure compliance with existing processes, improve FCC procedures, and promote transparency.

SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Communications Commission's and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) management and allocation of the nation's spectrum for commercial and government use. Spectrum is increasingly being used to provide voice, video, audio, and data services to consumers. The Committee will evaluate spectrum-management policies to ensure efficient use of the public airwaves for innovative communications services. The Committee will also examine whether plans for allocating spectrum maximizes broadband deployment and encourages investment. The Committee will pay particular attention to FCC and NTIA implementation of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, which was intended to make more spectrum available for mobile broadband services, as well as raise billions in spectrum auction proceeds to help build a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network, fund other Committee priorities, and reduce the deficit.

AVAILABILITY OF BROADBAND

The Committee will investigate whether regulatory policies are helping or hindering broadband deployment. For example, the Committee will conduct oversight of the \$9 billion per year Universal Service Fund. In particular, the Committee will examine what procedures are in place to control waste, fraud, and abuse, whether the funds are appropriately targeted, and the impact of the funding on jobs and the economy.

INTERNET

The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over wired and wireless communications to ensure continued growth and investment in the Internet. In particular, the Committee will monitor efforts to replace the successful multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance—in which non-governmental entities develop best practices for the management of Internet networks and content—with domestic regulation and international multilateral institutions.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee will examine whether the communications needs of first responders are being met. The Committee will examine the progress being made to ensure that first responders have interoperable communications capabilities with local, State, and Federal public safety officials. The Committee will also examine the progress being made by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) in carrying out the mandates of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Specifically, the progress made in establishing FirstNet, in coordinating with State and local law enforcement, and in finding private sector partners to develop an interoperable public safety broadband network. In addition, the Committee will conduct oversight regarding the implementation of legacy 911 and Next Generation 911 (NG911) services. NG911 relies on IP-based architecture rather than the PSTN-based architecture of legacy 911 to provide an expanded array of emergency communications services that encompass both the core functionalities of legacy E911 and additional functionalities that take advantage of the enhanced capabilities of IP-based devices and networks.

COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE ISSUES

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to the privacy and security of information and data collected by businesses about consumers and the potential for improving protection without undercutting innovative uses that benefit consumers and the economy. Further, the Committee will continue to review the manner in which fraud and other criminal activities affect e-commerce.

MANUFACTURING

The Committee will explore the state of manufacturing in the United States to identify factors that are hampering or furthering

U.S. competitiveness. The Committee will review the issues presented by the globalization of production and manufacturing networks, including the integrity of products and components assembled overseas and the impact on national security.

TRADE

The Committee will examine trade negotiations to ensure that foreign governments are not imposing non-tariff trade barriers, such as regulations or requirements, that harm U.S. businesses, their competitiveness and their ability to support jobs in the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Commerce Department and complementary or conflicting Federal efforts to promote U.S. manufacturing, exports, and trade, including efforts to lower or eliminate non-tariff barriers and harmonize regulation of products sold internationally where other countries share our health, safety, and consumer protection goals.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will continue oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and its implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations relating to the safety of consumer products, including the agency's implementation of Public Law 112-28 and determination of priorities to ensure that it is efficiently and effectively protecting consumers.

NHTSA MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee intends to continue oversight of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, including the effectiveness of agency's structure, regulations, research activities, investigations, and enforcement actions pertaining to motor vehicle safety. The committee will be particularly concerned with the way the Administration processes information and its ability to effectively oversee ever advancing safety technologies.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Trade Commission's management and operations, including the impact of its decisions and actions on the general public and the business community, its determination of priorities and the need, if any, for refinement of its authorities.

MISCELLANEOUS

CYBERSECURITY

The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over cybersecurity to ensure the country is well protected while at the same time avoiding one-size-fits all approaches that hinder the flexibility of commercial and governmental actors to combat the rapidly evolving

threats. The Committee will also review the efforts of agencies within its jurisdiction to secure their networks consistent with the Homeland Security Act of 2002. In doing so, the Committee will explore current cybersecurity threats and strategies to address those threats. The Committee will also examine government initiatives to improve cybersecurity both in the public and private sectors.

BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The Committee will continue its examination of the roles of HHS agencies in assisting the nation's detection, warning capability, and response to potential biological attacks. In addition, the Committee will evaluate the potential impact and preparedness of the nation's public health system. The Committee will continue to review the implementation of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 by HHS, and the extent of the coordination between HHS and the Department of Homeland Security, especially as it relates to Project Bioshield.

FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF HIGH-CONTAINMENT BIO LABORATORIES

The Committee will examine issues related to high-containment bio laboratories, which handle some of the world's most exotic and dangerous diseases, including anthrax, smallpox, foot and mouth disease, and Ebola virus. Among the issues under review are whether Federal plans or efforts to oversee high-containment bio laboratories are adequate, and whether some of these efforts are duplicative and overlapping. The Committee will continue its oversight into issues raised by the improper storage and handling of Federal select agents at CDC, NIH, and FDA labs. The Committee will also follow-up on ongoing efforts coordinated by the White House to improve oversight and management of Federal laboratories handling select agents.

ANTI-TERRORISM SECURITY FOR CHEMICAL FACILITIES

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's implementation of the Chemical Facilities Ant-Terrorism Program, originally authorized in Section 550 of Public Law 109-295, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007. The Committee will continue to examine whether taxpayer funds are spent prudently and the extent to which the Department is advancing the purpose of securing chemical facilities against terrorist threats.

GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC AND RISK ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to the numerous Federal science programs assessing public health risks, including the Integrated Risk Information System at the Environmental Protection Agency, the Report on Carcinogens produced by the National Toxicology Program at the Department of Health and Human Services, and assessments proposed or ongoing in other Federal departments and agencies. The Committee will review programs to assess the objectives, transparency, and integrity

of scientific assessments that inform regulatory and public health policies.

CONTROLLING SPENDING

The Committee will examine Departments and agencies under its jurisdiction to assure adequate and prompt implementation of recommendations from the Administration, the Offices of Inspectors General, the Government Accountability Office, and other sources to achieve cost savings or eliminate wasteful spending.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In June 2006, the Bush Administration issued a National Infrastructure Protection Plan. This plan created a process by which the Department of Homeland Security is to identify critical assets and assess their vulnerabilities and risks due to loss or natural disaster. During the 114th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's activities with respect to identifying high-priority assets and implementing plans to protect these assets in areas within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee will also examine the activities of the Department of Energy, FERC, and other Federal agencies related the physical and cyber security of the nation's energy infrastructure. Further, the Committee will examine the roles and responsibilities of the private sector, which owns and operates the bulk of the nation's critical infrastructure assets.

NUCLEAR SMUGGLING

The Committee will continue to monitor Federal government and private sector efforts at border crossings, seaports, and mail facilities. The Committee's review will analyze and assess Customs' and DOE's efforts and the utility of equipment aimed at detecting and preventing the smuggling of dangerous commerce, particularly nuclear and radiological weapons of mass destruction.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to House Rule, we are enclosing
the Committee's Oversight Plan for the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. DENT,
Chairman.

LINDA SÁNCHEZ,
Ranking Member.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

The oversight plan of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) for the 114th Congress, adopted pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of House Rule X, is as follows.

The Committee is in the unusual circumstance that while its legislative jurisdiction is confined to the House Code of Official Conduct (House Rule XXIII),¹ the Committee itself administers a range of ethics laws, rules and standards for House Members, officers and employees, as well as, in some instances, certain other legislative branch officials. A brief summary of the various provisions of law and rules that confer such responsibility and authority upon the Committee is provided below. In addition, among the functions assigned to the Committee in the House Rules are—

- To recommend to the House “such administrative actions as it may consider appropriate to establish or enforce standards of official conduct” for Members and staff, and
- To investigate alleged violations by Members or staff of the House Code of Official Conduct or other law, rule or standard of conduct applicable to official conduct.²

Furthermore, under the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, the Committee is charged with providing to House Members and staff, through its Office of Advice and Education, information and guidance on the applicable ethics laws and rules, and responding to their questions on the application of the laws and rules in particular circumstances.³

In fulfilling its responsibilities as summarized above, the Committee, on a daily basis, deals directly with the various laws, rules and regulations in its jurisdiction. These include rules on acceptance of gifts, the limitations on outside earned income and employment, the prohibition against private subsidy of official House activities, applications of the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act and the rules on proper use of official House resources and proper use of campaign resources.

Accordingly, in the fulfillment of its regular duties, there may be instances in which a change in a law, rule or Committee interpretation may be in order related to a matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. When such instances arise, the Committee’s practice is to propose appropriate amendments to statutory law or the House Rules, or, where the change is one that can be made by the Committee on its own authority, to effect an appropriate change.

In performing its duties under law and House Rules, the Committee will continue to be alert for instances in which a change in a law, rule or standard of conduct may be in order. When such instances arise, the Committee will seek information on, study and

¹House Rule X, cl. 1(g).

²House Rule XI, cl. 3(a)(1), (2).

³2 U.S.C. § 4711(i).

discuss the matter and develop appropriate changes. The Committee will itself effect those changes that are within its authority, but where a change would require amendment of statutory law or House Rules, the Committee will bring the matter to the attention of the House leadership and other committees as appropriate.

Provisions of the House Rules and Statutory Law that Confer Specific Authorities on the Committee

- The House gift rule (House Rule XXV, cl. 5) provides, in paragraph (h), that its provisions are to be interpreted and enforced solely by the Committee.
- House Rule XI, cl. 3(b)(7) provides that the Committee is to have the functions designated in titles I and V of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (relating to financial disclosure and the outside earned income and employment limitations), 5 U.S.C. §§ 7342 (the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act), 7351 (on gifts to superiors), and 7353 (on gifts to Federal employees), and House Rule X, cl. 11(g)(4) and (5) (on unauthorized disclosure of intelligence).
- Provisions of the financial disclosure statute designate the Committee as the “supervising ethics office” for House Members, officers and employees and certain other Legislative Branch officers and employees (5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 109(18)(B)) and state that the statute is to be administered by the Committee with regard to those Members, officers and employees (id. § 111(2)). The Committee also reviews the financial disclosure statements filed by candidates for the House.
- A provision of the statute establishing the outside earned income and employment limitations states that those limitations are to be administered by the Committee with respect to House Members and staff, as well as certain Legislative Branch officers and employees (5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 503(1)).
- For certain purposes under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, the Committee is designated as the “employing agency” of House Members and staff (5 U.S.C. § 7342(a)(6)).
- Both the Committee and the House of Representatives are designated as the “supervising ethics office” of House Members, officers and employees in the statute that governs gifts to Federal employees (5 U.S.C. § 7353(d)(1)(A)), as well as the statute on gifts to superiors (id. § 7351(c)). Those statutes also designate the Committee as the supervising ethics office for certain other Legislative Branch officers and employees (id. § 7353(d)(1)(E)).

CHARLES W. DENT,
Chairman.

LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ,
Ranking Member.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the House of Representatives, I hereby transmit to you the Oversight Plan for the Committee on Financial Services for the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT PLAN

Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the House of Representatives, the following agenda constitutes the oversight plan of the Committee on Financial Services for the 114th Congress. It includes areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight during this Congress; it does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the subjects listed below.

Pursuant to House Rules, this Oversight Plan contains oversight initiatives that will be undertaken for the purpose of identifying cuts to or the elimination of programs that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State and local government.

THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

The Committee intends to continue its close examination of the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Pub. L. No. 111–203) (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) by the financial regulators charged with implementing the law to ensure that they prudently exercise the authority conferred upon them under the Act.

Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC). The Committee will conduct significant oversight of the FSOC to assess its effectiveness in carrying out its statutory responsibility to make financial markets more stable and resilient and to ensure that it conducts its deliberations with an appropriate level of transparency.

Office of Financial Research (OFR). The Committee will conduct oversight of the OFR to ensure that the office is transparent and accountable, that it makes progress towards fulfilling its statutory duties, that its requests for data are not unduly burdensome or costly, and that the confidentiality of the data that it collects is strictly maintained.

Volcker Rule. The Committee will examine financial regulators’ implementation of section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Act, known as the “Volcker Rule,” and the effect of the Volcker Rule on the strength and international competitiveness of U.S. capital markets.

“Too Big to Fail.” The Committee will examine whether financial regulators’ implementation of titles I and II of the Dodd-Frank Act, which together were designed to end the government’s practice of bailing out financial institutions deemed “too big to fail,” is advancing or impeding that goal.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB). The Committee will oversee the regulatory, supervisory, enforcement, and other activities of the CFPB, the effect of those activities on regulated entities and consumers, and the CFPB's collaboration with other financial regulators. The Committee will also examine the governance structure and funding mechanism of the CFPB.

Financial Supervision. The Committee will examine financial regulators' safety and soundness supervision of the banking, thrift and credit union industries, to ensure that systemic risks or other structural weaknesses in the financial sector are identified and addressed promptly.

Capital Standards and Basel III. The Committee will explore generally the twin subjects of bank capital and liquidity, and, in so doing, examine closely the guidelines developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and how domestic financial regulators are implementing or planning to implement those guidelines in the U.S.

Mortgages. The Committee will closely review recent rulemakings by the CFPB and other agencies on a variety of mortgage-related issues. The Committee will monitor the coordination and implementation of these rules and the impact they are having on the cost and availability of mortgage credit.

Deposit Insurance. The Committee will monitor the solvency of the Deposit Insurance Fund administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund administered by the National Credit Union Administration.

Community Financial Institutions. The Committee will review issues related to the health, growth, safety, and soundness of community financial institutions, including the effect of regulations promulgated pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, individually and cumulatively, on community financial institutions' role in lending to small businesses, fostering employment, and promoting economic growth.

Regulatory Burden Reduction. The Committee will continue to review the current regulatory burden on financial institutions, with the goal of reducing unnecessary, duplicative, or overly burdensome regulations, consistent with consumer protection and safety and soundness.

Credit Scores and Credit Reports. The Committee will monitor issues related to credit scores and credit reporting.

Access to Financial Services. The Committee will generally examine ways to expand access to mainstream financial services among traditionally underserved segments of the U.S. population.

"Operation Choke Point." The Committee will conduct oversight of the Department of Justice, financial regulators, and other agencies relating to the coordinated interagency initiative known as "Operation Choke Point."

Discrimination in Lending. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of regulators' fair lending oversight and enforcement efforts to ensure that the Federal government does not tolerate discrimination.

Diversity in Financial Services. The Committee will continue to monitor Federal regulators' efforts to implement the diversity requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Improper Disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information. The Committee will evaluate best practices for protecting the security and confidentiality of personally identifiable financial information from loss, unauthorized access, or misuse. The Committee will also examine how data breaches are disclosed to consumers.

Payment System Innovations/Mobile Payments. The Committee will review government and private sector efforts to achieve greater innovations and efficiencies in the payments system.

Payment Cards. The Committee will monitor payment card industry practices.

Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. The Committee will review the application and enforcement of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing laws and regulations, and whether such laws and regulations are sufficient to counter threats posed by terrorist organizations and international criminal syndicates.

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The Committee will examine the operations of the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and its ongoing efforts to implement its regulatory mandates.

Money Services Businesses (MSBs) and their Access to Banking Services. The Committee will examine the operations of Money Services Businesses and assess the effectiveness of FinCEN and Internal Revenue Service regulation of MSBs.

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund). The Committee will monitor the operations of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The Committee will monitor developments and issues related to the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977.

Financial Literacy. The Committee will take action to promote greater financial literacy among investors, consumers, and the general public.

Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). The Committee will continue to examine the operation of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, authorized by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA), to ensure that the program is being administered properly and that any instances of waste, fraud or abuse are identified and remedied.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Committee will monitor all aspects of the Securities and Exchange Commission's operations, activities and initiatives to ensure that it fulfills its Congressional mandate to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

The JOBS Act. The Committee will conduct oversight of the SEC's implementation of the "Jumpstart Our Business Startups" or "JOBS" Act (P.L. 112-106) and the effect of that law on capital formation and investor protection.

Derivatives. The Committee will continue to review the impact of Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act on the operations, growth, transparency, and structure of the over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market.

Credit Rating Agencies. The Committee will examine the role that credit rating agencies, also known as Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organizations (NRSROs), play in the U.S. capital markets, and review the effectiveness of the SEC's oversight of NRSROs.

Regulation and Oversight of Broker-Dealers and Investment Advisers. The Committee will review the SEC's regulation and oversight of broker-dealers and investment advisers.

Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs). The Committee will examine the activities, operations and initiatives of self-regulatory organizations and the SEC's oversight of these SROs.

Equity/Option Market Structure. The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. equity and option markets and the SEC's response to those developments.

Fixed-Income Market Structure. The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. corporate and municipal bond markets and the SEC's response to those developments.

Corporate Governance. The Committee will review developments and issues concerning corporate governance at public companies and the SEC's proposals that seek to modernize corporate governance practices.

Employee Compensation. The Committee will monitor the implementation of provisions in Title IX of the Dodd-Frank Act governing the compensation practices at public companies and financial institutions.

Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC). The Committee will review the operations, initiatives, and activities of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, as well as the application of the Securities Investor Protection Act (SIPA).

Mutual Funds. The Committee will continue to examine the condition and operation of the U.S. mutual fund industry, including regulatory initiatives to reform money market mutual funds and private sector initiatives to improve investor understanding of money market fund valuations.

Advisers to Private Funds. The Committee will examine the functions served by advisers to private funds in the U.S. financial marketplace and their interaction with investors, financial intermediaries, and public companies.

Securitization and Risk Retention. The Committee will monitor the implementation of joint agency risk retention rule-making mandated by Section 941 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Covered Bonds. The Committee will examine the potential for covered bonds to increase mortgage and broader asset class financing, improve underwriting standards, and strengthen U.S. financial institutions.

Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). The Committee will review the operations, initiatives and activities of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The Committee will review the operations, initiatives and activities of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The Committee will review the initiatives of the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The Committee will review the initiatives of the Government Accounting Standards Board.

Convergence of International Accounting Standards. The Committee will review efforts by the SEC, the FASB, and the International Accounting Standards Board to achieve robust, uniform international accounting standards.

Securities Litigation. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 in protecting securities issuers from frivolous lawsuits while preserving the ability of investors to pursue legitimate actions.

Securities Arbitration. The Committee will examine developments in securities arbitration, including the impact of the arbitration-related provisions contained in section 921 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Business Continuity Planning. The Committee will continue its oversight of the implementation of disaster preparedness and business continuity measures by the financial services industry, including equity and option markets and financial market utilities, and the regulatory oversight of those plans in order to minimize the disruptions to critical operations in the United States financial system resulting from natural disasters, terrorist attacks, or pandemics.

GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The Committee will examine proposals to modify or terminate Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's statutory charters, harmonize their business operations, and wind down any legacy business commitments. The Committee will also examine the overall size of the GSEs' footprint in various aspects of the housing finance system and ways to reduce or constrain their large market share and develop a vibrant, innovative and competitive private mortgage market.

Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). The Committee will monitor the activities and initiatives of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) System. The Committee will monitor the capital requirements and financial stability of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, as well as the FHLB System's ability to fulfill its housing and community economic development mission and provide liquidity to the cooperative's member banks in a safe and sound manner.

HOUSING

Housing and Urban Development, Rural Housing Service, and the National Reinvestment Corporation. The Committee will conduct oversight of the mission, operations, and budgets of Depart-

ment of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Rural Housing Service (RHS), and the National Reinvestment Corporation. The Committee will review current HUD and RHS programs with the goal of identifying inefficient and duplicative programs for potential elimination or streamlining.

Public Housing. The Committee will conduct oversight of HUD's public housing programs that provide subsidies for operations, management and capital development for public housing agencies.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and Affordable Housing. The Committee will continue its effort to address HUD's largest rental assistance program and the government's role in the future of affordable rental housing.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The Committee will conduct oversight of HUD's Community Development Block Grant program, which provides Federal funds to cities and localities to help them address housing and community development.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The Committee will continue to monitor HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which provides grants to states and localities to fund affordable housing projects.

Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The Committee will examine the appropriate role for FHA in the mortgage finance system, how to encourage more robust private sector participation, and FHA's ability and efforts to manage its mortgage portfolio and mitigate its risk.

Foreclosure Mitigation. The Committee will continue to monitor the performance of the Obama Administration's various foreclosure mitigation initiatives, including the various components of the Making Home Affordable Program.

Veterans' Housing. The Committee will continue to monitor and promote coordination between HUD and other agencies in their work to address veterans' housing issues.

Fair Housing. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight to ensure the enforcement of fair housing practices. The Committee will seek to ensure that the principles of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 are upheld so that no person suffers discrimination based on their race, color, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or national origin in rentals, real estate sales, and lending practices.

Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). The Committee will conduct oversight of the grants and other programs that make up NAHASDA, whose authorization expired on October 1, 2013.

Settlement Procedures. The Committee will conduct oversight of the regulation of real estate settlement procedures, including appraisals and disclosures involving closing costs and the settlement process.

INSURANCE

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Committee will conduct oversight of the NFIP and will study proposals to increase the participation of the private sector in the flood insurance market.

Terrorism Risk Insurance Program. The Committee will monitor the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, which was reauthorized on January 13, 2015.

Federal Insurance Office (FIO). The Committee will monitor the Treasury Department's Federal Insurance Office, which was created by the Dodd-Frank Act to provide the Federal government with information and expertise on insurance matters.

Impact of Dodd-Frank Act Implementation on the Insurance Sector. The Committee will monitor implementation of various provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act and various international regulatory initiatives for their potential impact on the insurance sector.

MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

The Federal Reserve System. The Committee will exercise oversight of the operations and activities of the Federal Reserve System, including its conduct of monetary policy, its regulation and supervision of the financial services sector, and its role in the payment system.

Defense Production Act. The Committee will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Defense Production Act, which was reauthorized in 2014, and its individual authorities in promoting national security and recovery from natural disasters.

Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007, which reformed the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and seek to ensure that CFIUS fulfills its statutory mandate to identify and address those foreign investments that pose legitimate threats to national security.

Coins and Currency. The Committee will conduct oversight of the printing and minting of U.S. currency and coins, and of the operation of programs administered by the U.S. Mint for producing congressionally authorized commemorative coins, bullion coins for investors, and Congressional gold medals. The Committee will continue its review of efforts to detect and combat the counterfeiting of U.S. coins and currency in the United States and abroad.

Economic Sanctions. The Committee will monitor the implementation of recent financial sanctions passed by Congress and signed by the president, as well as any proposals to expand such sanctions or impose new ones. As part of this oversight, the Committee will monitor the efforts of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, which administers such sanctions.

International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Committee will consider the policies of the International Monetary Fund to ensure effective use of resources and appropriate alignment with U.S. interests in promoting economic growth and stability. This review will include receiving the statutorily required annual report to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the international financial system and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

U.S. Oversight over the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Possible U.S. Contributions. The Committee will consider any Administration request that the U.S. contribute to the replenishment of the concessional lending windows at the World Bank and

other multilateral development banks, which provide grants and below market-rate financing to the world's poorest nations.

Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank). The Committee will examine the operations of the Ex-Im Bank, whose statutory authorization expires on June 30, 2015.

International Trade. The Committee will oversee existing and proposed trade programs and consider policies within the Committee's jurisdiction to promote U.S. international trade so that U.S. companies retain access to foreign markets and remain globally competitive.

Exchange Rates. The Committee will review and assess the semi-annual report to Congress from the Secretary of the Treasury on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies pursuant to the Omnibus Trade Act of 1988.

Global Economic Conditions. The Committee will monitor economic developments overseas—particularly in those countries experiencing severe economic stress or dislocation—and assess the effect of those developments on the U.S. economy.

Extractive Industries and Conflict Minerals. The Committee will monitor the implementation of provisions in title XV of the Dodd-Frank Act imposing disclosure requirements relating to so-called extractive industries and conflict minerals.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OVERSIGHT PLAN

ADOPTED JANUARY 21, 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the requirements of House Rule X(2)(d)(1), the Committee on Foreign Affairs (“the Committee”) has adopted an oversight plan for the 114th Congress which will be shared with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration. This plan summarizes the Committee’s oversight priorities for the next two years, subject to the understanding that new developments will undoubtedly affect priorities and work assignments in the months ahead.

Congressional oversight remains one of the key responsibilities of the legislative branch. Committee Rule 15 requires each Subcommittee to hold regular oversight hearings. Oversight activities will thus be coordinated between the Committee and the Subcommittees, in order to facilitate comprehensive and strategic oversight of the programs and agencies within the Committee’s jurisdiction.

Oversight activities may include hearings, briefings, investigations, Member or staff-level meetings, correspondence, fact-finding travel, reports, and public statements. They may also include effective use and review of reports by the Government Accountability Office and by statutory Inspectors General, as well as Congressional Notifications submitted by executive branch agencies. The Committee will also consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction.

The Committee’s oversight activities will emphasize:

- effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy;
- effective implementation of U.S. law;
- the review of agencies and programs operating under permanent statutory authority;
- the elimination of programs and expenditures that are inefficient, duplicative, or outdated; and
- institutional reform, efficiency, and fiscal discipline.

2. PRIORITY OVERSIGHT MATTERS

a. ISIS & Syria: The Committee will scrutinize U.S. efforts to combat the terrorist group known as ISIS, as well as the larger crisis unfolding in Iraq and Syria, including the latter country’s ongoing civil war. Particular attention will be paid to U.S. military and diplomatic efforts to fight ISIS, the organization’s funding and recruitment, international efforts to eliminate the presence and use

of chemical weapons in Syria, and efforts to document potential war crimes by parties to the conflict.

b. International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime: The Committee will examine the current status of al-Qaeda and its affiliates, with a specific focus on recruitment efforts, evolving safe havens, and efforts to obtain WMDs. The Committee will conduct oversight of the State Department's various counterterrorism programs. The Committee will also examine the growing links between organized crime, illicit drugs, and global terrorism. Other transnational criminal issues of interest include maritime piracy, human, arms and wildlife trafficking, money laundering and intellectual property piracy issues.

c. Iran: The Committee will continue to closely review U.S. policy toward Iran, with special focus on the P5+1 negotiations regarding the status of Iran's nuclear program. The Committee will also analyze the threat posed by Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism and growing influence in Iraq and the region, along with the regime's human rights abuses.

d. Middle East and North Africa: In addition to the conflict in Iraq and Syria, the Committee will carefully review U.S. policy toward the Middle East and North Africa, to include: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the overall status of the Middle East peace process, as well as international efforts to rebuild Gaza; the broader transitions and/or reform efforts taking place in Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Libya, Bahrain, Morocco, Jordan and other countries in the region; and United States policies, programs, authorities and funding to address these challenges.

e. Afghanistan: The Committee will comprehensively review U.S. policy toward Afghanistan, including the update and implementation of the internationally negotiated Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. Particular focus will be paid to efforts to tackle corruption, improve governance, and strengthen security. This review will assess the effectiveness of U.S. assistance programs, the broader political-military and associated counterterrorism strategies, and the full range of policies related to the post-2014 transition, including programs and budgeting processes.

f. Pakistan: The Committee will review all elements of U.S. policy toward Pakistan, including efforts to eliminate safe havens for violent extremists and establish a stable, democratic country. This review will encompass both U.S. civilian and security assistance to Pakistan, in order to assess the extent to which such programs effectively advance U.S. national interests. The Committee will also conduct ongoing oversight of matters relating to Pakistan's nuclear program, including issues relating to nonproliferation, such as the legacy of the A.Q. Khan network.

g. North Korea: The Committee will review the nuclear, missile and cyber threat posed by North Korea, its proliferation activities and weapon sales involving rogue regimes, its illicit activities, continuing human rights violations, and U.S. efforts to assist North Korean refugees. The Committee will review U.S. diplomatic efforts and will examine next steps in U.S. policy to address the North Korean threat.

h. State Department Oversight, Authorization, and Reform: The Committee will monitor and examine the operations, budget, pro-

grams, planning, human resources, building, and security policies of the Department of State, with an eye toward authorization and reform legislation for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 that promotes U.S. national interests in a cost-effective and accountable manner. Special emphasis will be placed on reforming and streamlining the bureaucracy of the Department of State—increasing programmatic functions while lowering overhead costs. Emphasis will also be placed on improving the Department's collection and use of data to inform management decisions, including but not limited to: improving operational effectiveness, alignment of budgets and strategic priorities, program evaluation, and human resource policies. In addition to hearings with the Secretary of State and other Administration officials regarding their budget proposals for the upcoming year, such efforts may include: revisions to the Department's policies of recruitment, training, retention, and merit based pay compensation in the Excepted and Competitive Services; consideration of reforms to Executive Branch reporting requirements; and a reduction or consolidation of offices with duplicative mandates and overlapping responsibilities. In the wake of increasing threats to U.S. personnel serving overseas, the Committee will continue to evaluate the security of our embassies and consulates, along with proposed reforms to the State Department's diplomatic security service.

i. Asia-Pacific Region: The Committee will review the U.S.'s significant political, economic, and security interests in the Asia-Pacific, including East and Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. relations with the Asia-Pacific, including foreign policy, foreign assistance funding, security cooperation, territorial disputes, and trade relations. The Committee will examine the State Department's participation in multilateral organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the East Asia Summit, and closely monitor the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. The Committee will monitor the needs of Taiwan for defensive weapons systems as provided for in the Taiwan Relations Act.

j. India: The Committee's review of U.S. policy towards India will aim to reinvigorate bilateral cooperation. Particular attention will be paid to the U.S.-India security relationship, including cooperation on counterterrorism efforts and developments since the 2005 defense framework agreement. The Committee will also focus on efforts to enhance U.S.-India economic relations, including discussions surrounding a possible bilateral investment treaty. Stalled efforts to initiate civil nuclear cooperation will also be subject to review.

k. U.S. International Broadcasting: The Committee will continue to actively monitor and review the operations and organization of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and the full range of U.S. government-supported, civilian international broadcasting to respond more effectively to the challenges presented by state and non-state actors using modern communication platforms. The Committee will again look to pass the United States International Communications Reform Act, which would have reformed the BBG, and which passed the House unanimously in July of 2014.

l. China: The Committee will examine China's role in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Particular focus will be placed on China's assertiveness in territorial disputes, rapid military modernization, and human rights abuses. The Committee will also examine China's role in the global economy, including trade, technology, and currency issues that affect the American workforce. The Committee will review China's cooperation on international nonproliferation efforts against North Korea, Iran, and Syria. The Committee will monitor the State Department's participation in the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue and other related bilateral mechanisms. The Committee will investigate China's increasing use of cyber and economic espionage to affect foreign trade, and other policy outcomes.

m. Economic Policy and Trade: The Committee will play a vigorous role in overseeing international economic policy, including U.S. leadership in trade, finance, energy, technology, and development policy to promote economic prosperity and national security. This will include, but is not limited to, oversight of, and potential legislation relating to the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Export Administration Act.

n. Export Control Reform: The Committee will oversee proposed Executive Branch reforms of U.S. strategic export controls. In particular, the Committee will assess the extent to which proposed changes to the U.S. Munitions List and the Commerce Control List effectively safeguard critical technologies and national security, while supporting the defense industrial base and advancing U.S. commercial interests. The Committee will consider legislation on these and related matters as may be necessary and appropriate.

o. U.S. Nonproliferation Policy. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of U.S. nonproliferation policy and the international nonproliferation regime in preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The Committee will address opportunities to strengthen existing nonproliferation organizations, especially the International Atomic Energy Agency, increase cooperation with other countries, and enhance international nonproliferation agreements and mechanisms. Prominent issues will include the global expansion of civil nuclear power and the potential spread of technology, equipment and material useful in the development of nuclear weapons capabilities. The Committee will closely examine proposed and existing bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements with other countries, including their potential to promote U.S. nonproliferation objectives and commercial interests.

p. Africa. The Committee will review political, economic and security developments on the African continent. Key issues will include efforts to eliminate safe havens for violent extremists, economic development—including implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act—effective use of aid, human rights and democracy promotion, responsible energy development, and efforts to contain Ebola and ensure a sustainable post-outbreak health and economic recovery in West African countries affected by the disease. Particular attention is to be paid to the developments in Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa.

q. Western Hemisphere: The Committee will conduct oversight regarding the content and effectiveness of U.S. political, defense, counternarcotics and economic policy toward the countries of the Western Hemisphere. Special emphasis will be placed on the prospects for expanding trade and other forms of economic cooperation, especially with Canada, Mexico, and the emerging Pacific Alliance, as well as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and ongoing regional energy developments. The Committee will address continuing threats from drug trafficking organizations, transnational criminal organizations, gangs, and terrorist organizations. Attention will also be paid to the implications of Iran, Russia and China's increasing presence and influence in the region. The Committee will continue to closely monitor the stability of, and cooperation between, the governments in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Ecuador and Cuba. The Committee will also closely monitor U.S. implementation of sanctions against human rights violators in Venezuela. The Committee will continue its oversight of State Department and USAID assistance for reconstruction efforts in Haiti, as well as U.S. energy, security and diplomatic cooperation with the countries of the Caribbean. Finally, the Committee will assess the Administration's strategy to address the influx of unaccompanied alien children from Central America, in addition to reviewing U.S. foreign assistance priorities in the region.

r. Security Assistance and Arms Transfer Policy: The Committee will assess the effectiveness of security assistance programs authorized under the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act in advancing U.S. national interests. In addition, the Committee will review those security cooperation programs funded by the Department of Defense but which require concurrence of the Secretary of State, or otherwise give rise to the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee will also review law and policy relating to U.S. arms transfers and related end-use monitoring, as well as various counterterrorism tools that impact foreign policy. The Committee will also continue to carefully review proposed arms sales to ensure they comport with U.S. foreign and national security policy and benefit the legitimate defense needs of the recipient countries, as well as the process by which the Administration consults with the Committee and the Congress on such sales to ensure proper oversight.

s. Russia: The Committee will address the impact of Russia's foreign policy on U.S. political, economic, and other interests, especially as a result of its aggression and related hostile actions regarding Ukraine and other countries in Europe and Central Asia. It will examine the range of options available to the U.S., including legislation to impose sanctions on Russia and provide assistance to vulnerable countries. The Committee will review the deteriorating domestic situation in Russia regarding democracy, civil society, the rule of law, and human rights and consider measures to reinforce these against further erosion by the regime. It will also examine ways to reduce Russia's ability to use its energy exports for political and economic coercion. In addition, the Committee will monitor the ongoing Kremlin-driven propaganda campaign, assess its impact in Russian-speaking communities along the Russian frontier and among broader audiences, and consult with Executive Branch

agencies on the response to propaganda by the U.S. government and other partners.

t. Ukraine: The Committee will closely monitor Russian-supported separatist activity and the presence of Russian armed forces in Ukraine. It will actively oversee efforts to work with Ukraine's elected government to stabilize its economy, expand relations with the West, fight corruption, and protect Ukrainian sovereignty.

u. Europe/Eurasia: The Committee will review U.S. relations with European countries, with an emphasis on the European Union and NATO. Key issues will include the impact of Russian aggression on Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union, especially the potential consequences for NATO. Other key issues include a potential Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Area, the ongoing deployment of a regional ballistic missile defense system, the impact of the European financial crisis, diversification of energy sources and reducing reliance on Russian energy. The Committee will also examine, Turkey's evolving foreign policy orientation and domestic political trends, including efforts to combat ISIS and the spread of extremism. The Committee will also conduct oversight of U.S. policy in Central Asia.

v. Foreign Assistance: The Committee will review the underlying authorities for U.S. foreign assistance with an eye towards reducing duplication, and increasing transparency and effectiveness. It will also review issues related to the implementation of U.S. foreign assistance programs and projects, including the role of U.S. missions and embassies. In addition, the Committee will review issues related to coordination between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other U.S. Government agencies and departments that are involved in carrying out U.S. foreign assistance. Among a broad range of issues, the Committee will review U.S. foreign assistance initiatives aimed at addressing food security and global health challenges, including food aid reform, maternal health and child survival issues, Ebola containment efforts, and the implementation of the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013. Assistance provided through the Millennium Challenge Corporation will also receive close scrutiny.

w. Human Rights and Democracy: The Committee will examine U.S. activities to promote democracy and protect human rights around the world, including in post-transition environments. The Committee will critically assess U.S. involvement with multilateral human rights organizations, to ensure that U.S. diplomacy serves to promote fundamental human rights and freedoms.

x. United Nations and International Organizations: The Committee will closely review all aspects of U.S. funding of, and participation in, international organizations. Close attention will be paid to whether such funding and participation advances U.S. interests and values, protects the integrity of U.S. taxpayer dollars, and leads to increased transparency, accountability, and reform of those organizations. The Committee will closely monitor the work of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, and particularly efforts to improve performance, enhance accountability, and combat waste, fraud and abuse in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

3. GENERAL REVIEW OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

The Committee intends to exercise its oversight jurisdiction concerning the relations of the United States with foreign nations to the fullest extent allowed by House Rule X(1)(i). This means taking cognizance of events and circumstances in every region of the world outside of U.S. national borders, as well as U.S. foreign policy responses thereto, as developments warrant. According to Committee Rules, those responsibilities are divided among the Full Committee, its one functional subcommittee, and its five regional subcommittees, as follows:

Full Committee. The full Committee is responsible for oversight and legislation relating to: foreign assistance (including development assistance, Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Account, HIV/AIDS in foreign countries, security assistance, and Public Law 480 programs abroad); national security developments affecting foreign policy; strategic planning and agreements; war powers, treaties, executive agreements, and the deployment and use of United States Armed Forces; peacekeeping, peace enforcement, and enforcement of United Nations or other international sanctions; arms control and disarmament issues; the United States Agency for International Development; activities and policies of the State, Commerce, and Defense Departments and other agencies related to the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act, including export and licensing policy for munitions items and technology and dual-use equipment and technology; international law; promotion of democracy; international law enforcement issues, including narcotics control programs and activities; Broadcasting Board of Governors; embassy security; international broadcasting; public diplomacy, including international communication and information policy, and international education and exchange programs; and all other matters not specifically assigned to a subcommittee. The full Committee will have jurisdiction over legislation with respect to the administration of the Export Administration Act, including the export and licensing of dual-use equipment and technology and other matters related to international economic policy and trade not otherwise assigned to a subcommittee, and with respect to the United Nations, its affiliated agencies, and other international organizations, including assessed and voluntary contributions to such organizations. The full Committee may conduct oversight and investigations with respect to any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee as defined in the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade. This subcommittee has oversight and legislative responsibilities over the United States' efforts to manage and coordinate international programs to combat terrorism as coordinated by the Department of State and other agencies, and efforts to bring international terrorists to justice. With the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee, it has oversight of, and legislation pertaining to, nonproliferation matters involving nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction, except for legislation involving the Foreign Assistance Act, the Arms Export Control Act, the Export Administration Act, and sanctions laws pertaining to in-

dividual countries and the provision of foreign assistance (which is reserved to the full Committee). It has oversight of matters relating to international economic and trade policy; commerce with foreign countries; international investment policy; the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency; commodity agreements; and special oversight of international financial and monetary institutions; the Export-Import Bank, and customs. With the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee, it also has legislative jurisdiction over measures related to export promotion and measures related to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency.

Regional Subcommittees. The five subcommittees with regional jurisdiction are:

- The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
- The Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
- The Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats
- The Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa
- The Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

As detailed below, two of the regional subcommittees also have functional jurisdiction. Each of the regional subcommittees has jurisdiction over the following within their respective regions:

(1) Matters affecting the political relations between the United States and other countries and regions, including resolutions or other legislative measures directed to such relations.

(2) Legislation with respect to disaster assistance outside the Foreign Assistance Act, boundary issues, and international claims.

(3) Legislation with respect to region- or country-specific loans or other financial relations outside the Foreign Assistance Act.

(4) Legislation and oversight regarding human rights practices in particular countries.

(5) Oversight of regional lending institutions.

(6) Oversight of matters related to the regional activities of the United Nations, of its affiliated agencies, and of other multilateral institutions.

(7) Identification and development of options for meeting future problems and issues relating to U.S. interests in the region.

(8) Oversight of base rights and other facilities access agreements and regional security pacts.

(9) Concurrent oversight jurisdiction with respect to matters assigned to the functional subcommittees insofar as they may affect the region.

(10) Oversight of foreign assistance activities affecting the region, with the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee.

(11) Such other matters as the Chairman of the full Committee may determine.

The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. In addition to its regional jurisdiction, this subcommittee has oversight of: international health issues, including transboundary infectious diseases, maternal health and child survival, and programs related to the global ability to address health issues; population issues; the United Nations and its affiliated agencies (excluding peacekeeping

and enforcement of United Nations or other international sanctions); international cultural and educational programs and exchanges; the American Red Cross; and the Peace Corps. In addition, it has legislative and oversight jurisdiction pertaining to: implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; other matters relating to internationally-recognized human rights, including legislation aimed at the promotion of human rights and democracy generally; and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and related issues.

The Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats. In addition to its regional jurisdiction, with the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee, this subcommittee has oversight jurisdiction related to emerging foreign threats to the national security and interests of the United States.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, January 22, 2015.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR MILLER AND CHAIR CHAFFETZ: Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am submitting the Committee on Homeland Security's Oversight Plan for the 114th Congress. The Oversight Plan was adopted by the Committee on Homeland Security in open session on January 21, 2015, without amendment, by unanimous consent, a quorum being present.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

Clause 2(d), Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress requires each standing Committee to adopt an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration not later than February 15th of the first session of the Congress.

This is the oversight plan for the Committee on Homeland Security for the 114th Congress. It includes the areas in which the Committee expects to conduct oversight during the 114th Congress, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters as needs arise. The Full Committee will examine the following four key priorities, among other issues.

PREVENTING A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE HOMELAND

Protecting the homeland from a terrorist attack is the reason the Department of Homeland Security was created in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. Consequently, this Committee's highest priority is focusing on helping ensure that our Nation is strong and resilient, in the face of ever-evolving terrorist threats. We must also conduct robust oversight to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security and its partners at the Federal, State and local level can detect, disrupt, and defend against a multitude of threats facing the United States.

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine the persisting threats to Americans and American interests from Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula other existing and emerging terrorist cells inspired by Al Qaeda, and homegrown violent extremists, and domestic terrorists. The Committee will work to identify and address vulnerabilities within our Nation's critical infrastructure and systems and help ensure that mechanisms that dangerous people and entities aspire to exploit, such as our aviation and other transit systems, our cyber networks, and critical infrastructure control systems, are protected.

SECURING OUR BORDERS

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will continue to examine the Department's efforts to secure the land, air, and maritime borders of the United States. The Committee will assess programs and technologies used to secure U.S. land borders on the north and the south, as well as the Caribbean region. A large portion of the Committee's oversight in the 114th Congress will focus on examining what the Department is doing to secure the border in the face of the multiple immigration crises currently facing the United States. The Committee will also examine how the Depart-

ment is leveraging defense technologies on the border, including equipment re-deployed from Iraq and Afghanistan.

PROTECTING AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS

Cyber attacks are one of the biggest homeland security threats that our Nation faces. Malicious organized criminal organizations, along with state-sponsored cyber attackers continue to target our critical infrastructure and compromise our sensitive and confidential information on a daily basis. Our Committee, throughout the 114th Congress, will continue its efforts to ensure the Department has the resources and personnel to effectively execute its cybersecurity mission of protecting critical infrastructure and Federal civilian networks.

ENSURING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY RUNS EFFECTIVELY

The current leadership of the Department has undertaken a number of reviews and reforms to address a series of well-documented management challenges, many of which harken back to the days when twenty two agencies were brought together to form this new Federal Department in 2003. Key management challenges include acquisitions management, and chronically-low employee morale. In the 114th Congress, the Committee will continue to conduct oversight to ensure that DHS effectively conducts its operations while guarding against waste, fraud, abuse, and duplication. We will also give close scrutiny to efforts to improve acquisition and procurement outcomes, bolster employee morale, and effectively address instances of employee corruption. Furthermore, the Committee is planning to advance legislation to authorize the activities of the Department of Homeland Security during the 114th Congress in an effort to provide statutory guidance and hold the Department accountable, as it seeks to carry out its core mission of protecting the homeland, while executing its traditional non-homeland security missions.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency

DEPARTMENTAL EFFICIENCY AND WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND DUPLICATION

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will oversee the Department of Homeland Security's day-to-day operations to ensure that it is operating in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(F) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will work to identify potential opportunities to eliminate duplicative or unnecessary programs, find efficiencies that will contribute to the Department's ability to meet its vital missions, and identify areas for cost savings. The Committee will investigate homeland security programs and practices, as warranted. The Committee will also conduct rigorous oversight to ensure the Department conducts effective outreach to the private sector and utilize commercial best practices, as appropriate. The Committee will continue to monitor the security of Federal build-

ings and facilities, including the role and effectiveness of the Federal Protective Service.

ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will review the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to improve acquisition outcomes, and to ensure that effective management controls are put in place to prevent contract waste, fraud, and abuse while promoting efficiency and effectiveness. The Committee will review the authorities and activities of the Undersecretary for Management and Chief Procurement Officer to ensure the effective management of these key functions. The Committee will monitor the cost, schedule, and performance status of major Department acquisition programs. The Committee will also examine the impact of the Department's acquisition initiatives to enhance processes and improve outcomes related to its major acquisition programs.

The Committee also will review the Department's implementation of Section 831(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which grants the Secretary authority with respect to research and development projects to use more flexible contracting mechanisms in an effort to attract "nontraditional government contractors" for needed homeland security technologies, as well as the Secretary's use of other streamlined acquisition practices. The Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to leverage strategic sourcing, as outlined in Federal guidance, to increase efficiencies.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's progress to properly manage financial systems and data to minimize inefficient and wasteful spending, make more informed decisions to manage its programs and implement Department policies. The Committee will also review the Department's efforts to enhance its managerial cost accounting, address internal control weaknesses in financial reporting, achieve a clean audit opinion on its financial statements, and reduce the reliance on manual data calls to collect cost information from the various components and compile consolidated, reliable data.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's efforts to address information technology (IT) challenges, including the management and integration of the Department's IT systems. The Committee will review the authorities and activities of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and component CIOs to ensure the effective management and coordination of these key functions. The Committee will also monitor the Department's progress in IT architectural planning, investment management, cloud computing, policy development, operations, and related personnel management.

DEPARTMENTAL WORKFORCE

Throughout the 114th Congress, the Committee will monitor the Department's efforts to recruit and retain personnel and to address employee concerns set forth in the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Human Capital Survey and the Department's own personnel surveys, which have indicated morale problems across the Department. In addition, the Committee will continue to examine the Department's efforts to ensure an appropriate balance is struck between Federal employees and private contracts and guard against any unnecessary elimination of private sector jobs.

The Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to effectively and efficiently consolidate its headquarters from more than 40 locations throughout the National Capital Region, known as the St. Elizabeths Headquarters Consolidation Project.

EMPLOYEE INTEGRITY

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine employee corruption and misconduct issues and their effect on homeland security. Although the vast majority of Department employees reflect the agency's core values, even one corrupt employee represents a significant management challenge. The Committee will review Department statistics and case studies associated with employee integrity issues, as well as the effectiveness of policies, procedures, and practices the Department utilizes to address such issues.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine the homeland security operations of the United States Secret Service, including its critical role of protecting the President of the United States, and the protection of presidential candidates in the 2016 presidential election. The Committee will also monitor the efforts of the Department to reform the agency.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Section 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (the Act) created a Privacy Officer for the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the Department's information gathering and analysis functions and other programs across its components adhere to established standards for the protection of privacy. Section 705 of the Act also established an Officer for Civil Rights and Liberties to review and assess information alleging abuses of civil rights or civil liberties by employees and officials of the Department of Homeland Security. During the 114th Congress, the Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts under such laws to strike an appropriate balance between the need to combat terrorist attacks against the United States with the privacy expectations and civil rights of U.S. citizens. The Committee will also examine the extent to which the Department is transparent with the American people including its process for managing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine the Administration's efforts to implement Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8), and the required National Preparedness System, which includes the various frameworks and the National Preparedness Goal. The Committee will review preparedness capabilities for mass gatherings. Additionally, the Committee will review the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) response and recovery efforts for declared disasters to ensure capabilities are enhanced by lessons learned and Federal resources are used appropriately. The Committee will investigate issues, if any, of waste, fraud, and abuse associated with FEMA's disaster response efforts.

ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Throughout the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine FEMA's allocation and administration of grants to enhance the ability of state and local governments and emergency response providers to prevent, prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from a terrorist attack, including proposals for reforms to these programs. The Committee will review the coordination of grant programs across the Federal government; coordination within the Department of Homeland Security in developing guidance and administering grants; the ability of state and local governments to access, obligate, and expend funds; the strength of regional partnerships developed through grants; and the risk-based distribution and expenditure of such grants at the state and local levels. The Committee will examine options to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of grant programs. The Committee will also review ongoing efforts to comprehensively assess these investments and the impact on preparedness capabilities through the lens of the National Preparedness Goal, National Preparedness Report, State Preparedness Reports, and other related assessments.

CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine the significant challenges posed by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons to homeland security and assess the Department's progress in implementing security strategies including prevention, preparedness, and response approaches that utilize multiple tools and policies to reduce the likelihood and impact of CBRN attacks, and, thus, the CBRN risk to the Nation. The Committee will oversee the Department's efforts to predict and respond to the evolving CBRN threat landscape, and ensure that CBRN expenditures are risk-based, coordinated, and in general represent wise use of taxpayer dollars. The Committee will examine the Department's capability to mitigate CBRN risks through appropriate means including the detection of, preparedness for, and response to CBRN threats. The Committee will continue its oversight of those

activities needed to ensure the safety of the public and the first responder community in the event of an attack, such as through the development of medical countermeasures programs.

COMMUNICATIONS

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine the coordination of various communications programs and offices within the Department of Homeland Security, including the achievement and maintenance of interoperable communications capabilities among the Department's components. The Committee will monitor activities of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and the development of the public safety interoperable wireless broadband network. In addition, the Committee will review the Department's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System to ensure timely and effective alerts and warnings are provided to the public in the event of an emergency.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDER TRAINING

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's terrorism preparedness training programs, including awareness of these resources among first responders and state and local governments and the level of coordination among Federal, state, and local training programs. The Committee will also review existing training centers and determine whether the Department is optimally utilizing these facilities to enhance first responder terrorism preparedness.

EXERCISES AND SIMULATIONS

The Committee will examine the Department's efforts to streamline and improve the National Exercise Program to ensure the program enhances the preparedness of the Nation. The Committee will monitor the extent to which FEMA is incorporating lessons learned from national exercises into future training, planning, and response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

Subcommittee on Transportation Security

ADDRESSING EVOLVING THREATS

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine efforts within the Department of Homeland Security to mitigate known and evolving terrorist threats to domestic transportation systems. With respect to aviation security, the Committee will review the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) multi-layered, risk-based approach to preventing an attack on cargo and passenger aircraft, both at home and overseas. The Committee will also evaluate the capabilities of the TSA workforce and checkpoint technologies to ensure that TSA is effectively screening passengers and baggage.

In addition, the Committee will review TSA security measures for international flights bound for the U.S., including but not limited to, the use of the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS), directives that augment security protocols in select foreign airports, and the Secure Flight Program's watch list matching process. The Com-

mittee will also evaluate how TSA is working to leverage other federal law enforcement resources to enhance security on aircraft.

ADVANCING RISK-BASED SECURITY

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine TSA's long-term goals for TSA Pre✓™ and assess the effectiveness of TSA's other passenger screening programs, such as Managed Inclusion. The Committee will evaluate TSA's approach to expanding enrollment in TSA Pre✓™, including through contracts with private sector entities, and examine TSA's methodology to decide which passengers are eligible for TSA Pre✓™. Additionally, the Committee will monitor TSA's efforts to protect passenger privacy, and will monitor TSA's implementation of two new laws to provide expedited screening to certain passengers: the Helping Heroes Fly Act (P.L. 113-27) and the Honor Flight Act (P.L. 113-221).

The Committee will also examine how TSA is ensuring that passengers that are designated high-risk are receiving enhanced screening at the checkpoint. Finally, the Committee will assess whether there are additional ways for TSA to enhance security and implement risk-based strategies at the screening checkpoint or in other areas of security, such as checked baggage screening operations and access control points at domestic airports.

ENHANCING PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that TSA is effectively engaging the private sector to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations. Specifically, the Committee will evaluate the contracting process and management of TSA's Screening Partnership Program (SPP). The Committee will also monitor TSA's implementation of the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-238). The Committee will work to ensure that stakeholders are properly consulted on major security policy decisions, through the Aviation Security Advisory Committee or other means. The Committee will encourage TSA to find new ways to leverage private sector expertise, innovation, and technologies in its mission to secure the Nation's critical transportation systems in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

TARGETING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight to help identify and prevent waste, fraud, or abuse within TSA. As part of this overall effort, the Committee will conduct oversight on the implementation of H.R. 2719, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act (Public Law 113-245), and monitor whether TSA is complying with the provisions outlined in the Act. This includes, among other things, better private sector engagement, strategic planning, and transparency in how tax dollars are spent to avoid wasteful spending on technologies that do not perform as intended. Additionally, the Committee's oversight will include continued focus on the misclassification of employees within TSA's Office of Inspection, which according to the DHS Office of

Inspector General could cost taxpayers as much as \$17 million over the next five years if it goes uncorrected.

STREAMLINING AND IMPROVING SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PROGRAMS AND REGULATIONS

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will review TSA's efforts to secure surface transit systems, including the highest-risk mass transit and rail systems. The Committee's oversight will include a review of the Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response Program, the Surface Transportation Security Inspection Program, and TSA's surface transportation security regulations. The Committee will review the extent to which TSA effectively coordinates with its Federal, State, local, and private sector partners to secure our Nation's transportation systems and to help prevent conflicting or unnecessarily redundant regulations. The Committee will also assess the effectiveness of TSA's efforts to secure the Nation's pipeline systems through TSA's oversight and inspection activities.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the cybersecurity activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with particular attention to the activities within the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) and the U.S. Secret Service. Areas of examination will include the President's Executive Order 13636 "Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity," and operations of NPPD's EINSTEIN and Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) programs.

Finally, the Committee will examine the implementation of cybersecurity legislation enacted by the 113th Congress to, among other things, authorize the National Cybersecurity Communications and Integration Center (NCCIC), help improve the cybersecurity workforce, and grant DHS the authority to carry out protection of Federal civilian networks (Public Laws 113-246, 113-274, 113-277, 113-282, and 113-283).

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's programs to help protect critical infrastructure that are operated by NPPD. One of the key areas of focus will be on coordination within NPPD so that capabilities are leveraged on both sides of the house—cyber and physical—including the work of the Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis (OCIA). The Committee will also review how DHS, through NPPD, works with the critical infrastructure sectors to foster greater security against threats to critical infrastructure.

During the 114th Congress the Committee will conduct oversight of the implementation of recently-passed legislation authorizing the Department's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard (CFATS) program (P.L. 113-254). Further the Subcommittee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts at establishing an Ammonium Nitrate Security program, which has been delayed for several years.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the 114th Congress the Subcommittee will focus on the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and its ability to provide DHS components with the technology advancements needed to effectively carry out their respective missions.

The Subcommittee will also examine S&T's collaboration with the Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) and the transparency in which S&T reports this work to Congress.

NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL DETECTION

During the 114th Congress the Subcommittee will examine on the threat and challenges of the Department to prevent, detect and respond to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack (CBRN). The Subcommittee will specifically examine the efforts of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) and its efforts to provide DHS components with the capabilities to detect and prevent radiological and nuclear material from being smuggled into the United States.

The Subcommittee will be working closely with the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications (EPRC) on examining the efforts of the Department to better predict, prevent and respond to CBRN threats and ensure these efforts are risk based and well coordinated. The Subcommittee's will be examining the Departments proposals to reorganize and merge components within the Department including the Office of Health Affairs (OHA) and DNDO to better coordinate the Departments efforts to combat this threat.

Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security

BORDER SECURITY BETWEEN PORTS OF ENTRY

During the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine the Department's efforts to secure land and maritime borders of the United States, including but not limited to personnel, technology, infrastructure, and coordination between components. The Committee will also assess the status of programs and international agreements to secure US borders, from illegal entry by persons or contraband. The Committee will monitor the extent to which the Department can measure its performance in securing the borders and how these measures reflect the state of border security.

The Committee will also examine the technologies used to secure the borders. Specifically, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Department's acquisitions of border technologies, as well as examine the extent to which the Department is leveraging Department of Defense technologies declared excess, or available to the Department through long-term loan to effectively secure the borders.

The Committee will also examine the Department's efforts to identify, detain, prioritize, and remove criminal aliens from the United States, including those apprehended at or near US borders and ports of entry who are subject to removal, and particularly those from special interest countries.

BORDER SECURITY AT PORTS OF ENTRY

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine the integration and effectiveness of transportation and border security screening systems at ports of entry for detecting high-risk passengers and cargo transported within the United States and across our borders, including efforts to better facilitate travel and trade such as implementation of “trusted traveler” programs and the Beyond the Border Agreement with Canada.

The Committee will continue its rigorous oversight of the Department of Homeland Security’s biometric programs including the accuracy and completeness of databases and the development and implementing of a biometric exit system in the air, sea and land environments. The biometric entry system was a 9/11 Commission recommendation and was first implemented in 2003 with the creation of US-VISIT. The recommendation to support a biometric exit system has not been completed, and DHS has attempted to implement partial solutions short of the biometric requirements found in law.

The Committee will examine the technology and infrastructure needs at ports of entry to better facilitate trade and travel while also increasing border security.

VISA SECURITY

In the 114th Congress, the Committee intends to review efforts to ensure the deployment and implementation of training and infrastructure enhancements to assist border and consular officials in identifying, intercepting, and disrupting terrorists or others who would do our Nation harm and who are attempting to enter the U.S. The Committee will address any security-related deficiencies in the immigration and naturalization process that terrorists could use to gain entry to or remain in the country for illegitimate purposes. These weaknesses may be exploited by terrorists and those seeking to commit terrorist acts. The Committee intends to continue to explore challenges associated with visa security.

The Committee will continue to review visa security programs and policies to ensure adequate screening and vetting by DHS law enforcement including the Visa Security Program, the Preadjudicated Threat Recognition and Intelligence Operations Teams (PATRIOT), as well as reviewing the criteria for admission under the Visa Waiver Program and the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). These programs are critical to countering the growing threat of foreign fighters, including Americans and Europeans, who may attempt to join ISIS or its affiliates in Syria or Iraq, and who may return or travel to the United States to commit acts of terrorism.

The Committee will also examine the integration, security, and reliability of criminal, immigration, and terrorist databases used to screen persons seeking to enter and exit this country, to include advanced passenger information. The Committee will also assess the development of secure travel documents.

PORT AND MARITIME SECURITY

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine various aspects of port and maritime security, including the security of port

facilities; the screening of vessels, passengers, cargo, and crew, for potential terrorists, terrorist weapons, and contraband. Specifically, the Committee will examine nuclear detection efforts and the development of international security standards for shipping and containers as well as conduct a comprehensive analysis of the operations, including technology utilized, of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential.

The Committee also plans to review how the Department manages risks emerging from maritime threats and vulnerabilities such as small go-fast boats and semi-submersible vessels, the increasing maritime smuggling threat along the California coast and the impact of fewer interdiction assets and holding platforms in the source and transit zones.

The Committee plans to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's supply chain security programs, such as the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), the Container Security Initiative (CSI), the need to utilize a risk-based methodology and the future of the Radiation Portal Monitor program to ensure a proper balance between the facilitation of lawful trade and the security of the homeland. This will include an assessment of implementation of the Maritime and Transportation Security Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-295), the Security and Accountability for Every (SAFE) Port Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-347), relevant provisions of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-458), and the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53).

The Committee will examine the operations and procedures of the Customs and Border Protection Office of Air and Marine (OAM), specifically looking at OAM's interagency working relationships with law enforcement and Department partners and its specific capabilities and authorities. The Committee will review OAM's operational platforms and future acquisition programs to ensure both aviation and maritime assets are capable of meeting future mission needs and service requirements.

The Committee plans to review the Coast Guard's statutorily defined homeland security missions, to include ports, waterways, and coastal security; drug interdiction; migrant interdiction; law enforcement; and defense readiness. The Committee will examine Coast Guard operations to ensure that the service is using a risk-based, layered strategy to enforce laws and keep America's waters secure. This will include a specific assessment of the Coast Guard's counter terrorism capabilities, including the Maritime Safety and Security Teams, Port Security Units, Tactical Law Enforcement Teams, and the Maritime Security Response Team.

The Committee will review resource and asset needs within the Coast Guard to determine whether the service is operationally ready to address the varied threats to America's ports and waterways while pursuing a long-term sustainable path of fleet recapitalization.

Additionally, the Committee will investigate the Coast Guard's specific maritime security operations and initiatives, such as the International Port Security Program and the inspection of vessels originating from ports with inadequate anti-terrorism measures. The Committee will examine these and other programs to ensure

that the service is improving its maritime domain awareness and executing all of its missions in the most effective manner possible to keep America secure.

Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence

The security of the United States is undeniably linked to international security. Vulnerabilities in one part of the world can quickly become security threats in another; to include the U.S. Homeland. During the 114th Congress, the Committee will examine the capabilities and efforts of the Federal government, particularly the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to identify, prevent, deter, and respond to threats to the Homeland.

EMERGING THREATS AND HOMELAND COUNTERTERRORISM ACTIVITIES

The Committee will examine worldwide threats against the U.S. Homeland from various terrorist groups, including al Qaeda core, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), al Shahbab, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Boko Haram, and other emerging groups that seek to establish safe havens in destabilized regions from which they can plot attacks against U.S. citizens and the Homeland. The Committee will monitor issues related to homegrown terror threats and the U.S. Government's response, the programs and policies to counter violent extremism, as well as threats directed towards soft targets and those posed by active shooters. The Committee will conduct oversight on foreign fighter travel and trends, economic threats, terrorist financing. The Committee will also examine cyber threats to the Homeland from nation states and terrorist groups.

The Committee will continue to study national efforts to deter terrorist activity through terrorist designations, and efforts to prevent individuals from entering the United States who are members of or have provided support to terrorist groups. This oversight will include how DHS contributes to designation decisions as well as how multiple DHS components use this information in determining eligibility for entry into the United States.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND INSIDER THREAT PROGRAMS

The Committee will continue to assess the development of DHS counterintelligence and insider threat programs, including Departmental organizational changes, resources, monitoring programs, and training initiatives. DHS's counterintelligence efforts are intended to prevent adversaries from penetrating the Department to exploit sensitive information, operations, programs, personnel, and resources.

HOMELAND SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE

The Committee will conduct oversight of DHS's Intelligence Enterprise (DHS IE), including intelligence activities throughout the Department and component agencies. This will include a focus on the coordination and collaboration across intelligence offices and

personnel within the Headquarters' elements and component agencies. Additionally, the Committee will review efforts to build the intelligence, analytical, and assessment capabilities of the Department and to ensure its full participation in the Intelligence Community as part of its homeland security mission. This will include an examination of the hiring authorities, practices, and career-development of intelligence analysts and professionals within Headquarters elements and component agencies.

The Committee will examine the Department's role in managing, distributing, and otherwise using terrorist threat information in furtherance of its homeland security mission. The Committee will monitor the extent to which DHS effectively coordinates and collaborates with other Federal, state, and local agencies to mitigate threats to the Homeland. Additionally, the Committee will assess how threat information is incorporated in Departmental investments and programs, such as improvements to component traveler screening and visa programs, as well as research, staffing, and technology.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The Committee will continue to review federal efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) in the United States. This will include programs and policies designed to counter the narrative of violent Islamist extremism in the United States, as well as national efforts to carry out engagement and outreach to communities at risk for radicalization and recruitment by jihadist networks.

INFORMATION SHARING

The Committee will examine the Department's efforts to improve homeland security and terrorism information sharing among Federal, state, and local governments; law enforcement entities; first responders and emergency management personnel; and the private sector. The Committee will examine the Department's initiatives to coordinate information sharing to and from state and local fusion centers throughout the country, and will continue to evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of the National Network of Fusion Centers to determine their impact on securing the homeland. The Committee will also review coordination and information sharing procedures between state and local fusion centers and Joint Terrorism Task Forces. The Committee will examine the Department's role in managing, distributing, and otherwise using terrorist threat information in furtherance of its homeland security mission. The Committee will monitor the extent to which DHS effectively coordinates and collaborates with other Federal, state, and local agencies to mitigate threats to the Homeland. Additionally, the Committee will examine how threat information is incorporated in Departmental investments and programs, such as improvements to component traveler screening and visa programs, as well as research, staffing, and technology.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Pursuant to House Rule X, clause 2, I am pleased to enclose a copy of the Oversight Plan for the Committee on House Administration. The enclosed plan was drafted in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, and was adopted by voice vote during the Committee's organizational meeting on January 27, 2015, which was open to the public and with a quorum present.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 114-2

Resolved, that the Oversight Plan of the Committee on House Administration for the 114th Congress, as required pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X, is hereby adopted, as follows:

OVERSIGHT PLAN

MEMBER SERVICES

- Oversee Members' allowance amounts, including structure and regulations.
- Provide guidance and outreach to congressional offices to ensure compliance with Committee regulations.
- Review and revise the *Guide to Outfitting and Maintaining an Office of the U.S. House of Representatives*, a set of regulations governing the acquisition, transfer, and disposal of furnishings, equipment, software, and related services.
- Review the calculation of the Members' Representational Allowances and ensure that all Members have adequate resources for representing their constituents.
- Oversee the processing of vouchers and direct payments, including those for payroll. Continue to monitor the migration to the use of the electronic vouchering system.

New Member Orientation

- Plan, implement, and oversee the New Member Orientation Program for newly-elected Members of Congress.
- Oversee the planning and implementation of the Congressional Research Service New Member Issues Seminar in Williamsburg.

Intern Program

- In coordination with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, organize, administer, and oversee the Intern Lecture Series.
- Review and consider revising the Intern Handbook and other publications and communication materials used in support of the Intern Program.
- Continue and expand the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

COMMITTEE FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT

- Review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.
- Review the Committees' *Congressional Handbook* regulations governing expenditure of committee funds and update regulations as needed.

- Review Primary and any Secondary Expense Resolutions and approve authorization of committee-funding levels in committee and by House Resolution.
- Review Committees' Franking expenditures.
- Monitor continued implementation of the Committee broadcast program.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

- Monitor application of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) (PL 104-1).
- Review regulations adopted by the Office of Compliance.
- Evaluate resources available to the Office of Compliance and House employing offices to facilitate implementation of the Act.
- Conduct general oversight of the Office of Compliance.
- Monitor ongoing judicial proceedings to determine the impact on the CAA.

FRANKING COMMISSION

- Oversee the Members' use of the congressional frank by providing guidance, advice, and counsel through consultation or advisory opinion on the frankability of congressional mail
- Review proposals to reform mass mailing practices of Members, and regulations governing such mailings, and monitor current prohibition on mass mailings 90 days before a primary or general election.
- Review previously implemented rules to increase disclosure and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
- Revise the Regulations on the Use of the Congressional Frank and Rules on *Practice in Proceedings Before the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards*.

HOUSE OFFICERS AND HOUSE OPERATIONS

- Coordinate with House officers and officials to develop long term goals for the administrative, financial and administrative functions of the House.
- Work with House officers to identify and reduce spending and create more cost effective and efficient operations within the House.
- Analyze management improvement proposals and other initiatives submitted by the House Officers, the Inspector General, the Capitol Police Board, the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and other legislative branch agencies.
- Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on matters impacting operations of the House and joint entities.
- Provide policy guidance to the House Officers, Inspector General and the joint entities as appropriate.
- Oversee compliance with the House Employee Classification Act (2 U.S.C. 291 et seq.).
- Assure coordination among officers and joint entities on administrative and technology matters.
- Continue review of congressional continuity issues, including organizing sessions of Congress at alternate locations, technological

support for Member communications and chamber operations and filling vacancies in the House.

- Provide policy guidance and conduct oversight of security and safety issues and congressional entities charged with such roles.

Chief Administrative Officer

- Provide policy direction for the Chief Administrative Officer. Continue the review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Chief Administrative Officer.

- Review House procurement policies and monitor the effectiveness of the Chief Administrative Officer's procurement and contract management functions. Review procedures for processing contracts with the House that exceed the threshold of \$350,000.

- Continue to review ongoing process and technology upgrades to the House financial management system.

- Continue to monitor compliance with House Audit. Review the structure of House Information Resources and determine organizational direction of technology services in the House.

- Review and oversee information technology services provided, maintained or hosted by House Information Resources. Continue oversight of failsafe procedures to guarantee continuity of operations.

- Review new technology initiatives to better serve Members, committees, and the public.

- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; oversee implementation of changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.

- Review the operations of the House gift shop and its management.

- Continued review of House restaurant operations; furniture policy, inventory and selection; and alternatives to the current mail delivery process in order to strengthen the services and tools available to Members and staff.

- Examine Chief Administrative Officer's role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Review staff benefits offered by the House and proposals to modify benefits.

Clerk of the House

- Review and approve contracts and requests for proposals by the Clerk that exceed the \$350,000 spending threshold.

- Oversee the House Document Repository.

- Review standards for the electronic exchange of legislative information among the Houses of Congress and legislative-branch agencies.

- Coordinate on matters under the jurisdiction of the House Fine Arts Board.

- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.

- Review of semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.

- Review the printing needs of the Clerk to evaluate the potential for eliminating duplication.
- Oversee preparation of congressionally-authorized publications.

Sergeant-at-Arms

- Review and oversee security operations in the House, including the House chamber, the galleries, the Capitol, House Office Buildings, Capitol Grounds, and District offices.
- Review and oversee initiatives designed to increase security and security awareness for Members and staff in district offices.
- Review annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review impact of electronic access to controlled spaces.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Review the security operation of House parking facilities, regulations, and allocation of parking spaces.
- Consult with the Sergeant-at-Arms on policies adopted by the Capitol Police Board.
- Review the policies and procedures for visitor access to the Capitol.
- Review the printing needs of the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Capitol Police Board to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.
- Examine Sergeant-at-Arms' role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings, and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Review the use of technology generally in the protection of the House of Representatives.
- Oversee the Office of Emergency Management, including the implementation of coordinated plans for emergency evacuation and response.

House Inspector General

- Review proposed audit plan and audit reports, including the annual financial statements audit.
- Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House, investigate any irregularities uncovered, and monitor necessary improvements.
- Monitor progress of House audits.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Inspector General.
- Direct Inspector General to conduct management advisories to improve implementation and operation of key House functions.

OVERSIGHT OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND OTHER ENTITIES

Information and Technology Coordination

- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, forums for the sharing of technology plans and capabilities among the legislative branch agencies.

- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, the Legislative Branch Telecommunications group.
- Oversee management of the Congress.gov website.
- Oversee work of the Legislative Branch Financial Managers' Council.
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, proposals to reduce technology costs through consolidation and use of internet-based resources.

Library of Congress

- Conduct a review of the progress that the Library has made in providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.
- Continue oversight of Library of Congress operations, including inventory and cataloguing systems.
- Continue oversight of Law Library operations.
- Continue oversight of Congressional Research Service operations, and consider any need to modify management of the Service.
- Review implementation of the Library of Congress Fiscal Operations Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–481), the Veterans' Oral History Project Act (Public Law 106–380), the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law No: 106–474), and the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act (Public Law 106–99).
- Consider human-resources legislation proposed by the Library.
- Review the use of technology generally in Library of Congress operations.
- Review printing policies of the Library of Congress to assure compliance with Title 44 of the U.S. Code.
- Review reports by Library of Congress Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the Library of Congress Inspector General's office.

United States Capitol Police

- Monitor administrative operations of the agency, including budgetary management, civilian component, attrition rates, recruitment efforts and incentive programs for officers and civilian employees.
- Review proposals for additional USCP facilities and equipment.
- Review analysis of uniformed officer post/duty assignments to determine and authorize force levels to meet the agency's security requirements within the Capitol complex to include the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress and U.S. Botanic Garden.
- Review and consider proposals to improve USCP training program for new recruits, and in-service training.
- Authorize and oversee the installation and maintenance of new security systems and devices proposed by the Police Board.
- Review and authorize regulations prescribed by the Police Board for use of law enforcement authority by the Capitol Police.
- Examine Capitol Police role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, House Office Buildings and other facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Monitor the ongoing implementation of the Radio Modernization Project.
- Review reports by USCP Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the USCP Inspector General's office.

Government Publishing Office

- Oversee operations of the Government Publishing Office, including the Superintendent of Documents.
- Review and adopt legislative proposals to reform government printing by eliminating redundancies and unnecessary printing, increasing efficiency, and enhancing public access to government publications.
- Monitor implementation of remedial actions taken by management to address audit issues identified by the GPO Inspector General.
- Review the printing needs of the House of Representatives to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.
- Examine current GPO printing and binding regulations to determine advisability of change.
- Oversee Superintendent of Documents' Sales and Depository Library Programs.
- Review GPO labor practices and labor agreements.
- Review use of GPO facilities and other assets to identify possible alternatives enhancing value to the Congress and the public.

Architect of the Capitol

- Review the operations of the office of the Architect.
- Review the electronic and procured services provided by the Architect.
- Oversee Architect of the Capitol's maintenance of House buildings and the House side of the Capitol, and review plans for rehabilitation of House buildings, including oversight over the Cannon House Office Building renovation.
- Continue oversight of life safety measures, accessibility measures, and improved evacuation mechanisms in House buildings.
- Review the AOC Office of Sustainability's efforts to reduce energy consumption by the Capitol complex.
- Oversee operations of the Capitol Visitors Center, in conjunction with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.
- Review reports by Architect of the Capitol Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the Architect of the Capitol Inspector General's office.

Office of Congressional Accessibility Services

- Oversee management and operations of Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, such as the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), in conjunction with Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Smithsonian Institution

- Review the Smithsonian Inspector General's reports on the status of the Smithsonian.

- Oversee general museum and research facility operations of the Smithsonian Institution.
- Review and evaluate the Smithsonian Institution's use of authorized public funds.
- Review proposed appointments of Citizen Regents to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.
- Review proposals for authorization of new Smithsonian facilities. Review Smithsonian policies regarding initiation of planning, design and construction of projects.
- Review operations of the National Zoo.
- Review operations and conduct oversight of Smithsonian Enterprises.
- Review the use of technology generally in Smithsonian operations.
- Review any proposals to charge fees for admission to any Smithsonian exhibits.

TECHNOLOGY USE BY THE HOUSE

- Continue oversight of House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to improve technology governance, services and the electronic dissemination of information.
- Oversee implementation of House Rule XI 2(e)(4) requiring committee documentation to be made available electronically, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Review cyber security measures.
- Review technology standards for hearing rooms as they relate to the Committee broadcast program.
- Oversee and continue to implement an enterprise House Disaster Recovery Program for House offices, standing and select committees and Member offices.
- Oversee implementation of the House Office of Legislative Counsel & Law Revision Counsel's Modernization Project.
- Oversee and coordinate the House strategic technology plan.
- Oversee continuation of House technology assessment in both new media and cloud services.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL ELECTION LAW AND PROCEDURES

- Recommend disposition of House election contests pending before the Committee; monitor any disputed election counts.
- Review operations of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency, improve enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures. Consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the FEC's budget.
- Review federal campaign-finance laws and regulations, including Presidential public financing, and consider potential reforms.
- Examine the role and impact of political organizations on federal elections.
- Review operations of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency and improve implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the EAC's budget.

- Examine the impact of amendments made by HAVA and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and consider proposals to improve voting methods for those serving and living abroad.
- Review state and federal activities under the National Voter Registration Act to identify potential for improvement to voter registration and education programs and reducing costs of compliance for state and local government.
- Review all aspects of registration and voting practices in federal elections. Monitor allegations of fraud and misconduct during all phases of federal elections and evaluate measures to improve the integrity of the electoral process.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

OVERSIGHT PLAN

In accordance with Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary is responsible for determining whether the laws and programs within its jurisdiction are implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, eliminated, or enhanced. Accordingly, in the 114th Congress the Committee will review all laws and programs within its jurisdiction to assess their application, administration, execution, and effectiveness. The Committee will also review the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities within its jurisdiction for the administration and execution of laws and programs within its jurisdiction.

The Committee will review all agencies and programs within its jurisdiction to identify wasteful, inefficient, or duplicative programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, as well as those that could be enhanced. The Committee will also review the mission and operations of all agencies, including component organizations, within its jurisdiction. Through such oversight, the Committee seeks to determine how these agencies and entities can achieve more impactful and effective programs with an eye toward improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs and agencies. The Committee also seeks to eliminate fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. As a result of this oversight, the Committee anticipates streamlining and eliminating spending on agencies and programs within its jurisdiction, if appropriate.

This document outlines the current plans of the Committee on the Judiciary for oversight activities in the 114th Congress. The Committee's oversight and investigative activities will be coordinated between the Full Committee and the Subcommittees in order to facilitate comprehensive and strategic oversight of the programs and agencies within its jurisdiction. Oversight activities will include hearings, briefings, correspondence, reports, and public statements.

FULL COMMITTEE

U.S. Department of Justice. In conjunction with the Subcommittees, the Committee will conduct oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice, including all Department components and agencies.

Budget Oversight and Management Performance. The Committee will conduct oversight and identify U.S. Department of Justice grant programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, as well as those that could be enhanced. The Committee will also conduct oversight of all agencies and programs within its jurisdiction to uncover waste, fraud, or abuse and to identify programs that are inef-

ficient, duplicative, or outdated, or that are more appropriately administered by State or local governments. The Committee will also consider the extent to which federally funded or administered agencies and activities can more efficiently handle certain tasks on a national level and whether they save, reduce, or render more effective State or local government expenditures or activities. In addition, the Committee will consider whether any federal programs within its jurisdiction should be enhanced, concomitant with cuts to or the elimination of less effective programs.

The U.S. Copyright Office: The Committee will conduct oversight of the Copyright Office as it completes its transition to a digital environment. Oversight will include review of its recordation system and public access to its registration records.

Copyright Law and Policy: The Committee will examine the provisions of the Copyright Act to ensure it addresses the challenges faced by copyright owners, users, and consumers in the digital environment.

Office of the U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC): The Committee will examine how the IPEC is functioning and whether it has the authority and resources necessary for it to be effective. To the extent this involves non-copyright-related intellectual property issues, this will be coordinated closely with the Subcommittee on the Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet Subcommittee.

Intellectual Property Enforcement Agencies: The Subcommittee will review the intellectual property enforcement efforts of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection division and the Department of Justice. To the extent this involves non-copyright-related intellectual property issues, this will be coordinated closely with the Subcommittee on the Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet Subcommittee.

International Intellectual Property Laws: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the impact of international intellectual property laws, regulations, and policies upon American interests. In addition, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of international trade agreements and their negotiations, especially as they relate to potential trademark issues. To the extent this involves non-copyright-related intellectual property issues, this will be coordinated closely with the Subcommittee on the Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet Subcommittee.

Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act: The Committee will examine the application of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act in light of technological and marketplace changes in advance of the potential reauthorization of the legislation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, HOMELAND SECURITY & INVESTIGATIONS

U.S. Department of Justice: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the law enforcement agencies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

A. *The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the FBI. In addition to its traditional criminal investigatory jurisdiction, the Sub-

committee will also conduct oversight of the FBI's counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence authorities.

B. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA): The Subcommittee will review the operations of the DEA, including domestic and international drug enforcement, money laundering and narco-terrorism investigations.

C. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the ATF, including federal firearms enforcement, explosives investigations, and tobacco and alcohol trafficking operations.

D. U.S. Marshals Service (USMS)/Office of the Federal Detention Trustee (OFDT): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the USMS, including fugitive apprehensions, court and witness security, and its responsibilities under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight on the operations of OFDT.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operation of the federal prison system, including prisoner rehabilitation, reentry programs, and management of a growing offender population.

Federal Prison Industries: The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a government corporation that employs offenders incarcerated in federal prisons and provides job training opportunities to prisoners by producing goods and services for federal agencies.

Criminal Division: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

National Security Division: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's National Security Division.

Office of Justice Programs (OJP): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of OJP and its component organizations and the administration of law enforcement assistance grants in order to identify programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, and those that could be enhanced.

Office on Violence against Women (OVW): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of OVW and the administration of Violence against Women Act (VAWA) grants.

Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of COPS and the administration of community policing grants.

Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA): The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the operations of EOUSA.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS): The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of DHS law enforcement components, including the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Federal Air Marshals Service.

U.S. Sentencing Commission: The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the U.S. Sentencing Commission with particular attention to the role of the Commission following the Supreme Court's decision in *U.S. v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005) and its progeny. The Subcommittee will also examine the extent to

which federal courts are imposing sentences that diverge from those recommended by the sentencing guidelines.

National Security: The Subcommittee will review the use of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and U.S. PATRIOT Act authorities by Intelligence Community (IC) agencies.

Domestic/Home-Grown Terrorism: The Subcommittee will review the threat to our national security from home-grown terrorists including the recruitment and training or self-radicalization of home-grown terrorists and the federal government's efforts to preempt, investigate, and prosecute domestic terrorism.

GAO Report on DOJ Funding Sources: The Subcommittee will review the alternative sources of funding at DOJ, including fines, fees, and penalties, that make up approximately 15 percent of DOJ's budgetary resources.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of OJJDP.

Criminal Division—Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering section of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

Encryption and Handheld Electronic Devices: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on concerns expressed by law enforcement that the increased use of unbreakable encryption on handheld devices and other personal electronics may hinder their efforts to investigate crime.

Crimes against Children: The Subcommittee will review laws and law enforcement tools designed to combat child exploitation, including reauthorization of the Adam Walsh Act, and the proliferation of child pornography on the Internet.

Protection of U.S. Citizens' Constitutional Rights: The Subcommittee along with the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice will examine the adequacy of current protections for U.S. citizens' Constitutional rights vis-à-vis law enforcement and national security efforts.

Electronic Communications Privacy Act: The Subcommittee will examine whether this decades-old statute requires modernization in light of the digital revolution that has taken place since the statute's enactment.

Cybersecurity: The Subcommittee will review the laws and law enforcement tools designed to combat and prevent cyber attacks.

Firearms: The Subcommittee will continue to examine ways to reduce firearms-related violence, including examining current federal law and state compliance with requirements to post information to the NICS database.

Criminal Code: The Subcommittee will examine issues related to Criminal Code reform, including improving and streamlining Title 18 and whether all criminal statutes in the U.S. Code should be consolidated and/or listed in Title 18.

Over-criminalization: The Subcommittee will continue to examine ways to address the problem of over-criminalization and over-federalization, using the information accumulated during the 2013–2014 hearings before the Over-criminalization Task Force.

Criminal Street Gangs: The Subcommittee may consider enforcement and prevention issues concerning criminal street gangs, and the issue of how gang affiliations may be broken to reduce the number of both street and prison gangs.

Crime Prevention: The Subcommittee may examine the extent to which federal policies and funding are adequate to support crime prevention strategies at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels.

International and Domestic Human Trafficking: The Subcommittee will review law enforcement and other activities within its jurisdiction that address international and domestic trafficking in human beings.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE

Protection of U.S. Citizens' Constitutional and Civil Rights: In general, the Subcommittee will examine the adequacy of current protections for U.S. citizens' constitutional and civil rights.

Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice: The Subcommittee will examine the enforcement record and priorities of the Civil Rights Division. The Subcommittee will focus on the Division's activities in the areas of education, employment, credit, fair housing, public accommodations, law enforcement practices, voting rights and the integrity of federal elections, and federally funded and conducted programs.

Fiscal Responsibility: The Subcommittee will examine constitutional reforms to address government spending.

Federalism / Congressional Authority: The Subcommittee plans to examine the proper balance between the finite powers allocated to the federal government in the U.S. Constitution and the powers reserved to the states.

Exercise of Constitutional Authority: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the exercise of constitutional authority by the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.

Civil Justice: The Subcommittee will review the policies and practices of the civil justice system and consider whether reform is needed.

Community Relations Service: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the operations of the Community Relations Service.

Office of Government Ethics: The Subcommittee will consider the priorities and operation of the Office of Government Ethics.

Property Rights: The Subcommittee will consider whether there is a need to address existing protections for citizens' private property rights.

Religious Liberty: The Subcommittee will consider the federal role in the protection of Americans' rights under the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses.

Abortion: The Subcommittee will examine the constitutionality and enforcement of federal and state statutes that relate to abortion.

Marriage: The Subcommittee will examine constitutional issues concerning marriage.

War on Terrorism: The Subcommittee will consider constitutional issues associated with the War on Terrorism.

Detention of Suspected Terrorists: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on matters related to the long-term detention of sus-

pected terrorists, including the protection of the related constitutional rights of U.S. citizens.

United States Commission on Civil Rights: The Subcommittee will review the work of the Commission, its management, and its implementation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

Constitutionality of President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration: The Subcommittee will conduct hearings on the constitutionality of the Administration's deferred action programs.

Implementation of President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the implementation of the Administration's deferred action programs, new immigration enforcement priorities, and other executive actions announced on November 20, 2014.

Executive Office for Immigration Review: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of Justice's adjudication of immigration cases.

Secure Communities Program: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the ending of the Secure Communities program by the Administration, policy changes regarding the use of detainers by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and legal and policy questions surround the issuance of ICE detainers.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS): The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the components within DHS that are responsible for enforcing and ensuring the integrity of United States immigration laws, including ICE and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Budgetary Resources: The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the sufficiency of budgetary resources with regard to immigration functions at USCIS and ICE.

Legal Immigration: The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight over our current legal immigration laws and programs, including whether relevant federal agencies are efficiently administering and enforcing these laws and programs, issues relating to backlogs, family reunification, whether excessive regulations are stifling the use of these programs, the impact on U.S. citizens, comparisons with our global competitors, and related issues.

Illegal Immigration: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the causes and methods of illegal immigration and how to better prevent it in the future.

Fiscal Impacts of Immigration: The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on the fiscal effects of legal and illegal immigration, including their impact on the Social Security system and other federal programs.

Immigration Enforcement: The Subcommittee intends to examine the sufficiency of current immigration enforcement laws and programs, including whether relevant federal agencies' policies and enforcement records are sufficient and consistent with current federal statutes, the level of cooperation with other countries, the proper roles for the federal government, states and localities in enforcing our immigration laws, and the status of implementation of the congressionally-mandated exit tracking system.

Fraud: The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on fraud associated with petitions for visas and other immigration benefits, including allegations of fraud in the asylum and credible fear determination processes. The Subcommittee also intends to conduct oversight of identity fraud and identity theft in the immigration context.

Influx of Unaccompanied Alien Children and Family Units: The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the Administration's handling of the influx of unaccompanied alien children and family units along our southern border and proposed legislative changes.

Criminal Issues: The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on the impact of crimes committed by immigrants, trends in gang violence among immigrant communities, and the sufficiency of efforts to remove violent criminals.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the USPTO, including the status of pending patent and trademark applications and developments with patent and trademark quality. The Subcommittee will also continue to exercise oversight to ensure that the USPTO has full access to the fees it collects from applicants and appropriately exercises its fee-setting authority.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and Implementation of the America Invents Act: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the implementation of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the America Invents Act that contained numerous changes to our nation's patent system.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Global Intellectual Property Rights Attaché Program: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the Global Intellectual Property Rights Attaché program's efforts to promote high standards of IP protection and enforcement internationally for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders.

Federal Judiciary: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the federal judiciary, including evidence issues and civil and appellate procedures. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine the resources available to Article III courts, including judicial salaries and security for federal judges.

The Service of Judicial Process on Foreign Entities: The Subcommittee will examine the difficulty of serving judicial process on foreign entities in order to ensure that the rights of all U.S. citizens can be protected in an increasingly global economy.

Technology Issues: The Subcommittee will examine developments in technology and the Internet affecting public policy, including issues surrounding Internet governance.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN): The Subcommittee will review the domain name system, its structure and governance, and the impacts that changes to this system would have on intellectual property rights holders.

State Justice Institute: The State Justice Institute (SJI) provides matching grants to state courts that allow them to develop methods to work more efficiently and productively. The Subcommittee intends to review SJI operations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL AND
ANTITRUST LAW

Administrative Process and Procedure: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the topic of regulatory reform in general, including examining specific regulations, as well as issues related to the Administrative Procedure Act, the Congressional Review Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, trends in regulatory citizen suits, regulatory litigation, judicial doctrines of deference to agency determinations, the overall costs and benefits of federal regulation in general and their impact on specific communities, regulatory budgeting, the extent to which agencies compete for policymaking primacy with the Legislative Branch, and the role that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget plays in the federal rulemaking process. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine regulatory litigation and enforcement.

Bankruptcy: The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy system, including their responsiveness to the needs of financially troubled businesses, individuals and municipalities. The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of bankruptcy judgeship needs.

State Taxation Affecting Interstate Commerce: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of issues related to state taxation that affect interstate commerce, particularly with respect to appropriate nexus standards.

Agencies: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's Civil Division, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Antitrust Division, Tax Division, Executive Office for United States Trustees, and Office of the Solicitor General and their respective budgets. It will also conduct oversight of the Department's compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Administrative Conference of the United States: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the Administrative Conference of the United States.

Arbitration: The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of issues arising under the Federal Arbitration Act.

Legal Services Corporation: The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the Legal Services Corporation.

Interstate Compacts: The Subcommittee may conduct oversight to determine the extent of compliance with the constitutional process by which States seek Congressional approval of interstate compacts.

Divergence in U.S. Merger Review and Enforcement: The Subcommittee may examine disparities in the tools available to the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice with regard to mergers and whether these disparities result in different substantive standards.

International Divergence in Antitrust Enforcement: The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of international competition laws.

Antitrust Exemptions: The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of industry antitrust exemptions to determine whether such exemptions continue to serve the public interest.

Net Neutrality: The Subcommittee will examine proposed Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations regarding net neutrality and the role of antitrust laws in enforcing the principles of net neutrality.

Effects on Competition Caused by Government Participation in Markets as a Provider of Goods and Services: The Subcommittee will examine instances where government participates in a particular market and whether such participation impacts competition.

China and Antitrust Enforcement Policies: The Subcommittee will examine China's anti-competitive enforcement actions and how the antitrust enforcement agencies are coordinating with other federal government agencies and their Chinese counterparts regarding such enforcement efforts.

Section 5 of the Federal Trade Communications Act: The Subcommittee may examine the Federal Trade Commission's use of its authority under section 5 of the Federal Trade Communications Act.

Telecommunications Act of 1996: The Subcommittee will conduct a review of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Mergers: The Subcommittee will examine mergers on a case-by-case basis.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB): The Subcommittee may examine the CFPB, including with regard to its activities concerning arbitration.

Process Reforms for Congressional Review and Approval of Interstate Compacts: The Subcommittee may examine the process by which interstate compacts are approved by Congress.

Settlements Requiring Payments to Nongovernmental Entities: The Subcommittee will examine an increasing trend of Justice Department settlements requiring payments to third parties, particularly in the context of mortgage lending settlements.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In accordance with clause 2(d)(1) of House of Representatives Rule X, I enclose a copy of the oversight plan adopted by a quorum of the Committee on Natural Resources today in open session.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Oversight Plan

114th Congress



Chairman Rob Bishop

January 28, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Under clause 2 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, each standing committee of the House has general oversight responsibilities to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction are being implemented in accordance with the intent of Congress to determine whether they should be continued, reformed, curtailed, or eliminated.

Congress has a responsibility to keep the Executive Branch accountable to the American people and ensure that decisions by agencies are open and transparent. During the 113th Congress, the Committee on Natural Resources conducted thoughtful oversight on a number of specific issues and policies administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior and other agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction—seeking answers to how and why policy decisions are made, who made the decision, and how it affects people, our economy and the environment.

In the 114th Congress, the Committee will continue to pursue aggressive oversight of the Executive Branch. To ensure a specific focus, the Committee will form a new subcommittee entirely dedicated to oversight and investigation of each federal agency within its jurisdiction. Additionally, through oversight hearings and investigations the Committee and its subcommittees will focus oversight efforts on promoting job creation and economic growth, reducing spending and ensuring responsible use of taxpayer resources, and protecting public access to public lands and waters for recreation and economic development.

This oversight plan outlines the initial, primary focuses of the Committee, though additional oversight activities are expected to be generated throughout the first and second sessions of the 114th Congress.

FEDERAL LANDS

Budget and Spending Review—The Committee will review the Fiscal Year 2016 budget request for programs under its jurisdiction, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS.)

Strengthening the Core National Park Service Functions of Stewardship, Visitor Experience and Maintenance of Park Facilities—The Committee will conduct oversight on ways to ensure that budget constraints, should they occur, do not fall on the traditional National Park Service visitor services and property maintenance portion of their budget.

New Parks—Proposals for additional parks and park expansions will be examined with due regard for the merits of the proposal, spending constraints, our national need for access to vital resources, and the protection of private property rights.

National Park Management—The Committee will conduct oversight on ways to reduce the substantial and growing maintenance backlog (estimated at over \$11 billion for FY 2013) and enhance public enjoyment of the parks.

Wilderness Designations and Releases—The Committee will examine proposals for additional wilderness designations as well as

proposals for the release of areas found not suitable for wilderness designation.

Forest Health and Wildfires—The Committee will conduct oversight hearings on forest health, wildfire prevention and suppression, and the need for more active management of our national forests.

County Payments and School Funding—Following examples of states, tribes, and local communities, the Committee will pursue changes to management to replace the current uncertain and diminishing funding by creating a more sustainable and reliable program.

National Forest Recreation—Oversight will be conducted on ways to strengthen public access to National Forests for a wide range of family recreational and sporting activities and that fees for use of developed sites are not excessive.

Management of Bureau of Land Management Land—The Committee will conduct oversight on ways to ensure that traditional uses, such as grazing, are permitted in an efficient and fair manner and address the substantial maintenance backlog.

Strengthening the Role Our Vast System of Bureau of Land Management Lands Can Contribute to Economic Growth, National Security, and Sound Conservation—Oversight will be conducted on ways to ensure that our public lands provide secure domestic sources of energy, food, fiber, minerals, jobs and recreation under appropriate conservation standards.

Checks and Balances—The Committee will examine administratively imposed activities and designations to ensure that these actions fully respect the interests and culture of the affected local people and do not infringe on authorities that more properly belong to elected officials in Congress and local government.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge Oversight—According to FWS, the backlog for their 560 refuges now exceeds \$3.4 billion and there are more than 12,000 deferred projects. Committee will resume its oversight of this growing backlog and will continue to inquire why FWS is committed to acquire an ever increasing amount of private land while doing an increasingly poor job of managing what they already own.

WILDLIFE

Invasive Species—Thousands of acres of public land in the United States are overgrown by invasive species. These foreign invaders are destroying valuable infrastructure, preventing recreational opportunities and are costing federal taxpayers millions of lost dollars. The Committee intends to examine ways to effectively address the problems caused by non-native species.

Lacey Act—The Committee will conduct a series of comprehensive oversight hearings on various provisions that have been added to this federal law since its original enactment in 1900. Among the issues to be examined are: why are American citizens required to comply with foreign laws, why individuals are denied “innocent owner” protections under the Lacey Act and what has been the impact of the Legal Timber Protection Act of 2008.

Public Access within the National Wildlife Refuge System—During recent years, the Committee was contacted by several Rep-

representatives concerning development of specific Comprehensive Conservation Plans for refuges, which are required by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. In some instances, these plans became controversial and had the potential to negatively impact public access for anglers, hunters and recreationists.

Sikes Act—The Department of Defense controls nearly 30 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat at nearly 400 military installations. The Committee is interested in obtaining an update of the Department's conservation efforts, whether additional opportunities are being provided to disabled sportsmen as mandated by Public Law 105-261 and the status of efforts to require Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans for State-owned National Guard facilities.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species—The Committee will continue its oversight role in monitoring the Administration's implementation of proposals adopted by the Convention at the 16th Conference of the Parties.

ENERGY AND MINERALS

Expanding Domestic Energy Production—The Committee will focus on the importance of increasing American-made energy in order to create more new high-paying jobs, increase our economic competitiveness, and to improve national security. In February 2010, the Department of the Interior released a jobs report that showed that 1.4 million Americans were employed in jobs related to programs and activities of the Department. Nearly half the jobs identified in the report were related to oil, natural gas and mining activities on federal lands, and yet those activities only occupy a small fraction of the total lands managed by the Department.

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Natural Gas—The Committee has jurisdiction over the administration of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) and will work to ensure safe and responsible production of America's offshore oil and natural gas resources. The Committee will build upon oversight and legislative efforts to reform the Offshore Planning Process, direct specific offshore lease sales, codify the reorganization of the former MMS, provide fair and equitable revenue sharing for all coastal states, and promote new safety efforts.

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)—The committee will examine and conduct oversight of the Coastal Zone Management Act and its implementation and impacts on OCS oil and gas exploration and development.

Onshore Oil and Natural Gas Programs—In the 114th Congress the Committee will focus on the state of oil and natural gas leasing on federal lands in the western United States. This will include leasing delays and declines in production from federal lands, reforms to streamline onshore energy leasing and permitting, development of oil shale resources, access and leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), and access to ANWR. This Congress there will be additional oversight on Alaskan oil and natural gas development by reviewing NPRA administrative reforms and an in depth review of the Administration's regulation of hydraulic fracturing.

Renewable and Alternative Energy—In the 114th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight over current solar, geothermal, and wind programs operated by the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM), BLM, and the USFS. The Committee will examine ways to streamline the leasing and permitting of these renewable and alternative energy forms.

National Mineral Security Strategy—The Committee will conduct oversight on domestic mineral resources, current and planned production, and possible future production opportunities, including of critical minerals.

Coal Mining Regulations and Leasing—The Administration and Department of the Interior continue to wage a war on coal. The Committee has conducted and will continue extensive oversight of the job-destroying regulatory changes, such as the Stream Buffer Zone Rule, proposed by the Administration to stifle coal mining, production and use. The Committee will focus on this issue through both legislative relief and aggressive oversight.

United States Geological Survey—The Committee for several years has had growing concern over the path and programs operated by the United States Geological Survey (USGS.) Particularly of concern are the growing non-resource or hazard programs at USGS and other Department programs; USGS data quality dependence on outside data; mineral and energy programs focused on stopping mineral development not promoting it; and mapping programs. The Committee intends to closely examine the current operations of USGS and may consider legislation to consolidate and streamline the focus of the agency to reduce waste and duplication not only in the USGS but across agencies.

Federal Mapping Programs—The federal government spends billions each year on new geospatial data. This spending, including tens of billions in the stimulus act, is frequently wasteful, duplicative and uncoordinated. During hearings in previous congresses, witnesses were clear that multiple Administrations have had this problem with little control, central oversight or effective management. The Committee intends to reexamine this issue and may consider legislation to consolidate and streamline the Department's geospatial programs to reduce waste and duplication. In addition, the Committee intends to conduct oversight of federal agencies and how they track and monitor their land management responsibilities and purposes.

WATER AND POWER

Budget and Spending Review—At a time of growing water supply needs, water-use conflicts, curtailment of water and power deliveries due to federal regulation and a spiraling national debt, the Committee intends to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's and the U.S. Geological Survey's annual budget request and ongoing spending. The goal of such oversight is to determine whether the agencies are accountable to the American taxpayers, water and power ratepayers and other beneficiaries and to ascertain whether they are fulfilling their core missions.

Oversight of the Power Marketing Administration Budgets—The Committee will continue budget oversight of the four Power Marketing Administrations that sell hydropower generated at federal

dams and reservoirs to wholesale customers that serve millions of retail electricity customers.

Protecting and Promoting Hydropower as a Clean, Renewable Energy Source—Litigating interests and regulatory efforts undermine existing hydropower resources and curtail the growth of new hydropower. The Committee will examine these efforts and ways to protect and promote large-scale and small-scale hydropower generation at existing and potential facilities.

Increasing Traditional Water Supplies—Visionary leaders developed much of the western water supply infrastructure that urban and rural communities have depended upon for generations. These existing water storage and delivery projects continue to serve millions of ratepayers and food consumers nationwide, but their operations are being curtailed by endless litigation and agencies bent upon rationing water supplies. The Committee will focus on the need to protect existing water storage/conveyance facilities and also examine and overcome regulatory, financial and other barriers to building new ones as a way of returning to a policy of abundance.

Water Project Financing—The Committee intends to analyze different types of water projects to determine the most cost-effective approach to providing new water supplies and other benefits. This examination, when necessary, will include but not be limited to a determination of project's purposes, cost per acre foot, water and non-water benefits and the current process used to determine cost/benefit ratios.

Returning to the "Beneficiary Pays" Principle—Recent efforts to integrate wind and solar resources into the electricity grid can have impacts on existing water and power users who do not benefit from such integration. The Committee intends to examine the impacts of integration schemes, including those by the Western Area Power Administration.

Maintaining Electricity Transmission/Distribution Service on Federal Lands—Energy rights of way on federal lands have a direct impact on electricity transmission and distribution systems. Vegetative management on these rights-of-way is an issue in some areas of the western United States. The Committee intends to examine these matters as it relates to electricity reliability and catastrophic forest fire prevention.

OCEANS

Budget and Spending Review—The Committee will conduct oversight of the budgets of the National Marine Fisheries Service and certain "wet" programs of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), within the Department of Commerce. In addition, the Committee will examine the impact of NOAA's changing priorities on fishery dependent communities.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Reauthorization—The Magnuson-Stevens Act is the primary statute regulating commercial and recreational fishing in federal waters. The Act was last reauthorized in the 109th Congress and a number of issues related to the reauthorization were examined by the Committee in the 113th Congress, when a bill was reported by the committee. The Committee will continue this work to reauthorize the Act in the 114th Congress.

National Ocean Council and Ocean Zoning—Through an Executive Order, the White House created a new National Ocean Council (NOC) and a structure for a new Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning initiative, otherwise known as ocean zoning. The Committee will examine the authority used to create this entity and initiative, what sources of funding will be used, what authorities this new entity will have, and what effect any new policy initiatives from the NOC will have on other departments and agencies.

INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

Budget and Spending Review—The Committee will review the budget request and staffing levels for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, and other Departments, offices and functions relating to Indian and Alaska Native affairs.

Federal Barriers to Economic and Energy Development on Indian lands—Certain federal laws and policies governing public lands are applied to lands held in trust or restricted status for tribes and individual Indians. For example, the Interior Department's proposed rule regarding hydraulic fracturing in the production of oil and gas resources treats lands held for the exclusive use and benefit of Indians as though they belong to the public. The Committee will review whether it is appropriate to apply public land laws to Indian lands in the manner proposed by the Obama Administration.

Land Buyback—The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 provided for a one-time direct appropriation of \$1.9 billion to Department of the Interior for the consolidation of highly fractionated Indian land, pursuant to the Indian Lands Consolidation Act. The Committee will exercise its duty to review the operation of the land consolidation program and hold the Administration accountable for the expenditure of this sum of money.

Fee-to-Trust Issues—The 2009 Supreme Court decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar* was one of the most significant judicial actions concerning Indian lands and tribal recognition since 1934. The Department of the Interior has failed to cooperate with the Committee in identifying a potential resolution. For example, the Department refuses to divulge which tribes and lands are affected by *Carcieri*. This obstructs potential bipartisan legislative action to reform and improve the process of acquiring lands for Indians in a balanced manner that reflects contemporary land use and ownership among tribal and non-Indian communities in 21st century America. The Department's actions to date have all but invited expensive litigation, confusion, and delays in the fee-to-trust process. In the 114th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's actions to assist Members determine an appropriate course of action to update fee-to-trust policy.

Alaska Natives—The Committee will review the implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other laws pertaining to Alaska Natives (including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980).

Natural Resources Management on Indian Reservations—The Department of the Interior holds approximately 56 million acres of land in trust or restricted status for tribes and individual Indians. The Committee will review current law, policy, and agency action

concerning these resources in furtherance of the goal of increasing tribal self-governance and economic development opportunities for the benefit of Native Americans. The Committee may focus on the implementation of the HEARTH Act of 2012 and on the Department's recent revision of surface leasing rules affecting Indian trust and restricted lands.

Indian Country Law and Order—The Committee plans to review the implementation and impact of provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act and the tribal jurisdiction provisions included in the Violence Against Women reauthorization that fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee. In addition, the Committee will review federal policies and actions (and inaction) concerning safety, crime prevention, and law enforcement in Indian Country.

Indian Health Care Improvement Act Implementation/Indian Health Service—In the 114th Congress the Committee intends to review implementation of Indian health care, with a focus on the delivery of medical services to Indian people, particularly those in remote reservations where access to health care is difficult and costly.

Tribal Recognition—Since the 1960s the Secretary of the Interior has granted recognition to tribes even though some experts and tribes have noted that such recognition was made without authorization from Congress. For example, the Bureau of Indian Affairs regulatory process for extending recognition to new tribes, found in Part 83 of the Code of Federal Regulations, was established by the Department without authorization from Congress. Recent Departmental actions concerning the recognition of tribes have stirred controversy. The Department administratively “reaffirmed” the recognition of a tribe that had not been named on any list of tribes recognized pursuant to treaty or statute. The Department has refused to invoke any legal defense on behalf of the United States in lawsuits filed by certain groups seeking tribal recognition where new casinos appear to be at stake. Because the power to recognize a tribe is a solemn action that grants special political status on the tribe's members, the Committee may conduct a thorough overview of recognizing new tribes and may focus on a controversial proposed rule by the Department to lower the standards for the recognition of new tribes.

Indian Gaming—According to the National Indian Gaming Commission, in 2013 the Indian gaming industry generated \$28 billion in revenues from 449 casinos operated by more than 200 tribes pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. Indian gaming is inextricably linked with fee-to-trust and recognition and therefore it may be addressed in the context of the Committee's review of recognition and fee-to-trust (including *Carcieri*) issues described above. In addition, the Committee in the 114th Congress may conduct hearings specifically on gaming to ensure that appropriate enforcement and oversight by the National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior, and Department of Justice is being conducted.

Tribal Trust Settlements—The Committee may review the negotiation and settlement of lawsuits against the United States filed by more than 100 Indian tribes. The basis of the lawsuits, filed under previous Administrations, was that the United States mis-

managed trust lands and trust accounts of Indian tribes in violation of the government's statutory obligations. As of October 2014, lawsuits filed by 82 tribes have been settled with this Administration for \$2.74 billion. Dozens more may be settled during the remainder of the Administration. The Committee is interested in ensuring that the settlements are fair and just for tribes and taxpayers.

Tribal Sovereign Immunity—In May 2014, a sharply divided Supreme Court in *Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community* upheld a judge-created doctrine that tribes possess absolute immunity from civil lawsuit except with respect to a lawsuit filed by the federal government. The Committee may focus on the implications of the controversial ruling.

INSULAR ISSUES

Budget and Spending Review—The Committee will conduct oversight of the budget of the Office of Insular Affairs, within the Department of the Interior.

General Oversight of the Office of Insular Affairs—The Committee expects to review the fundamental issues facing each of the territories and freely associated states: support and development of self-government and self-determination; economic development and self-sufficiency through the private sector; accountability of federal funds; implementation and enforcement of federal laws; implementation and funding for the Compacts of Free Association; and management of limited land and water resources.

Puerto Rico—The results of plebiscite vote over the past few years and what it means in terms of Puerto Rico's future political status will be examined.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

Following House passage in 2014 of Committee-led legislation, the Committee will continue to examine ways to update and improve the ESA, which has not been authorized since 1988. The Committee will also continue to examine the impacts of litigation-settlement driven listings, critical habitat designations, and other executive branch regulations to ensure transparency, sound science and state, local, landowner, and tribal involvement.

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

Oversight of Implementation and Effectiveness—The Committee will conduct oversight on the implementation of the law and on NEPA's effectiveness in achieving the purposes for which it was enacted more than 45 years ago in 1969.

FEDERAL BUDGET AND SPENDING REVIEW

The Committee's jurisdiction covers the Department of the Interior, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Indian Health Service, and certain programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Committee will examine each of these agencies for opportunities to streamline, reduce costs, and either close or consolidate outdated programs. The committee will particularly focus on those programs that have

seen significant growth over the last few budget cycles or sudden significant spikes in funding as a result of agency decisions. The Committee will also look at the growing number of executive branch regulations, executive orders, and other actions from those agencies that are adversely impacting private property owners, local governments, tribes, states, and private industry.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee will conduct oversight of global climate change's impacts on federal lands, oceans, and other resources and strategies for using federal lands, oceans, and other resources to mitigate its harmful effects.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

OVERSIGHT PLAN

Rule X, Clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House requires each standing committee of the House to adopt and submit a two-year oversight plan to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration by February 15 of the first session of each Congress.

The following is the oversight plan for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its subcommittees for the 114th Congress. The Committee will conduct oversight and investigations pursuant to its legislative jurisdiction and its broad jurisdiction under House Rule X.

This oversight plan contains a detailed list of matters for oversight and investigation that will advance the Committee's mission to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the federal government and all its agencies. The list is not exhaustive. The Committee will retain the flexibility to investigate instances of waste, fraud, and abuse as they emerge, and to conduct oversight of other issues as appropriate.

WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT

The Committee will continue its efforts related to oversight of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement of federal government spending. Although the Government Accountability Office (GAO), inspectors general, and whistleblowers continue to raise concerns about waste in federal spending, the executive branch and Congress often fail to adequately address the issue. The Committee's oversight will cover all federal government departments, agencies, and programs with an eye toward solutions for eliminating wasteful spending. Many of the following sections address specific areas where the Committee has an opportunity to make an immediate difference by addressing wasteful spending. Furthermore, the Committee plans to offer targeted legislative proposals that go to the heart of this issue by proactively addressing the issue of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

OPEN GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

The Committee will continue to advocate for technological solutions to increase transparency throughout the government. Broadly speaking, the Committee will seek to ensure that the federal government's information—with a few well-defined exceptions, such as national security information—is made available online and that it is formatted in ways that facilitate easy access and analysis. The Committee will evaluate possible legislation to set policy goals for

technology-driven transparency for program performance, regulatory materials, and legislative documents. The Committee will also examine public access to information through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), examine the implementation of other open government laws, such as the Presidential Records Act and the Federal Advisory Committees Act, and consider whether any statutory mandates may impede public access to information.

In 2014, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) was signed into law. The DATA Act, if effectively implemented, will transform federal spending transparency by providing program and activity level spending information. The Committee will oversee implementation efforts by the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Treasury.

The Committee will continue to investigate the persistent challenges and failures associated with the preservation of presidential and federal records, as required by law. Dating back to the Clinton Administration, changes in technology have challenged each subsequent administration's ability to capture, manage, and preserve the growing and diverse volume of electronic records. Despite new policies intended to improve transparency, concerns have been raised that problems remain. The Committee intends to examine the challenges created by the changing landscape of digital communication, including the use of personal e-mail and social media for government business.

The Committee will focus on executive branch compliance with FOIA. The Committee will monitor implementation of the memorandum issued by the President on January 21, 2009, reinstating a presumption in favor of disclosure. The Committee will also examine implementation of the OPEN Government Act of 2007 and the Electronic FOIA Amendments of 1996.

HOMELAND SECURITY

The creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) required one of the largest consolidations of federal agencies in history. The Department was ultimately formed by bringing together 22 different government offices, agencies, and components. Though the Department has made progress in integrating these various agencies, there is still room to improve efficiency and responsiveness. The Committee will review the operations, management, and decision-making at DHS. The Committee will evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of homeland security strategy, laws, initiatives, and technology. In particular, the Committee will focus on aviation, rail, port, and transit infrastructure, our northern and southwestern borders, and other facilities at risk, federal funding interaction with local responders, and efforts to strengthen the U.S. public health system.

The Committee will also review the issuance of visas and passports, as well as other border control and security identification issues. The Committee will also examine border and immigration policies and the operations of U.S. consulates.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the federal government's emergency management capabilities to ensure that lessons learned from previous disasters—such as the need for improved planning and execution, communications operability, and coordina-

tion between all levels of government and within the federal government—are part of federal agency reform efforts.

The Committee will also conduct oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure it is prepared to handle domestic emergencies.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

The Committee's interagency jurisdiction allows for the examination of the effectiveness, efficiency, and cooperation of all U.S. government agencies and departments with a role in national security and foreign operations.

The Committee will conduct oversight of policies, procedures, and programs affecting the safety and security of U.S. government personnel and facilities abroad. The Committee's oversight will include, but not be limited to, U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Defense efforts to protect embassy personnel and property.

The Committee's oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, and development efforts within the CENTCOM area of responsibility will include, but not be limited to: investigations of the training and equipping of the Afghan National Security Forces; the efficiency, accountability, and efficacy of a variety of development and reconstruction efforts, including the use of private contractors; the capacity of various U.S. Government agencies and departments to carry on activities in Afghanistan; and the State Department's diplomatic mission in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Committee will identify ways to reform the interagency process and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse among the various U.S. national security agencies, departments, and foreign aid organizations. The Committee's oversight will include, but not be limited to a review of U.S. military combatant commands, especially AFRICOM, SOUTHCOM, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Institute of Peace, and the State Department. In particular, the Committee will monitor the status of reconstruction efforts in Haiti.

The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, and development efforts to address the issue of global terrorism both in the short-term and long-term. The Committee's oversight will include whether the United States is maximizing the use of all elements of the national security power and how anti-terrorism efforts, such as the detention and trial of unlawful enemy combatants, are coordinated with other important U.S. national security interests and the rule of law. The Committee's review will include the international standing of the United States, humanitarian assistance, development programs, and public diplomacy efforts.

The Committee will evaluate U.S. vulnerability to global energy supply disruptions. The scope of the Committee's oversight will include the extent to which supply diversification through the production of domestic renewable and non-renewable resources is an adequate and cost-effective solution for the Defense Department's national security objectives.

The Committee will continue oversight of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' care and management of veterans' needs. The

Committee will examine the large backlog of veterans' benefit claims and efforts to streamline the claims process, as well as veteran transitional issues. The Committee will continue to oversee and assess the efforts of the United States to secure and protect human rights and religious freedom throughout the world.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee will examine the country's aging infrastructure. It will address ways to modernize the way Americans move by reviewing the efficiency of national transportation and infrastructure projects and by identifying and preventing waste. Oversight in this area will include highway and airport redevelopment projects, and fixed rail system improvements.

Additionally, the Committee will examine high speed rail developments and concepts throughout the country, as well as overseas, to help determine the most feasible and cost-effective way to improve mass transit.

In addition, the Committee will consider the role technology plays in advancing commercial and private travel. Oversight in this area will include looking into laws, regulations, and policies related to unmanned aerial vehicles and self-driving cars, for example. The Committee will also examine the status of our nation's merchant marine, including the current condition of the ocean-going fleet in the foreign trade.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Committee will examine domestic and international efforts to better track aircraft and identify ways to close existing gaps in global positioning systems caused by the use of outdated technology. Currently, air traffic controllers rely on human pilots to track aircraft in areas where radar does not exist, including over the oceans.

The Committee will closely examine laws, regulations, and policies governing the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The Committee's oversight efforts will focus on maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of airport security, including technology, checkpoint screening, perimeter security, workforce requirements for screening agents, information sharing, and private sector solutions for increasing airport security.

The Committee's oversight also will include reviewing the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) to ensure proper standardization of the identification cards to reduce security gaps.

FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY DISPOSAL

Since 2003, federal real property management has been on the GAO High Risk list. The Government holds thousands of unneeded properties and spends hundreds of millions of dollars on upkeep and maintenance of those properties. For example, in FY 2013, the government disposed of 21,464 unneeded properties with annual operating costs of \$411 million. A June 2010 Presidential Memorandum on property disposal directed OMB to develop guidance that would include agency-specific targets to achieve \$3 billion in cost savings. The Committee intends to examine what progress has

been made toward this goal, and to consider changes that could be made to the Federal Real Property and Administrative Services Act that would expedite real property disposal.

The Committee will also review the General Services Administration's fleet vehicle leasing and sales programs, as well as look into government ownership of fleets in other modes of transportation.

PUBLIC HOUSING

The Committee will examine overall costs associated with public housing throughout the country and territories, as well as the significant unmet need for public housing in the United States. Addressing management concerns within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) public housing and low-income rental assistance programs is a priority for the Committee.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Federal agencies spent over \$81 billion in fiscal year 2014 buying, operating, and maintaining information technology products, services, and systems. Many of these systems fail to deliver the productivity gains that were expected, or worse, simply fail. The Committee will review the federal government's information technology procurement and management policies to ensure that taxpayers are getting the maximum return for their money. The Committee will closely monitor the executive branch's efforts to stop IT projects that are not on target, streamline those that are wasteful, and work to ensure that inefficient legacy systems are decommissioned.

The Committee will look broadly at ways technology can improve governmental processes. In particular, the Committee will focus on the need to transition from outdated legacy systems to newer and more efficient systems—such as those that utilize cloud computing and other technologies—to drive savings. The Committee will continue to assess the progress of federal IT investments and shine light on underperforming programs and assets.

Changes in technology present government agencies with new possibilities and new challenges. The Committee will continue to monitor agency misuse of technology and identify oversight failures.

The Committee will also closely follow the implementation of the Federal Information Security Act of 2014 (FISMA), the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) relevant provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (NDAA), and the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act).

The Committee will examine and evaluate agency privacy and security practices to ensure protection of confidential data. The Committee will also focus on emerging technologies and the impact they are having, and will have, on our existing laws and institutions.

The Committee will review the impact of federal IT mandates under laws such as the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), the E-Government Act of 2002 and the Clinger-Cohen Act. The Committee will seek input from government employees on the front lines of procurement and implementation to determine

whether these mandates have improved data security, public access, and IT enterprise planning—and at what cost.

The Committee will also examine the role of the Federal Government in internet regulation and governance, and the impact of data protection laws on U.S. economic interests. In addition, the Committee will also focus on privacy in a digital age.

CYBERSECURITY

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of policies, strategies, and role in cybersecurity. This includes examining breaches of government, contractor, and private sector networks as well as the role federal agencies play in cyber incident threat intelligence, management and response, and cybersecurity risks to the private sector.

The Committee will review the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) cybersecurity framework and its impact on the private sector. The Committee will conduct oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity Protection System and the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP).

The Committee will monitor and conduct oversight of federal agency information security practices that are required under FISMA and OMB guidelines, as well as the role of DHS and other federal agencies in these activities. The Committee will examine and evaluate the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) and its progress in facilitating private-public information sharing.

FEDERAL REGULATION AND THE REGULATORY PROCESS

While many federal regulations are necessary to effectively implement the laws that Congress passes to protect health, consumers, and the environment, federal regulations can also impose significant burdens on regulated industry. The Committee will place special emphasis on oversight of the federal regulatory process to ensure that federal regulators work to minimize unnecessary burdens on small businesses, job creation, economic growth, and competitiveness.

The Committee will evaluate agency rulemakings to ensure that agencies do not exceed their regulatory authority and adhere to the requirements embodied in executive orders and statutes when developing a regulation. Regulators have an obligation to develop rules in an open and transparent manner and provide adequate time for the public to participate in a meaningful way. The Committee will scrutinize practices not subject to typical rulemaking requirements, such as the issuance of guidance documents, interim final rulemakings, and settlement agreements, as well as the issuance of local, state, or federal taxes, fines, fees, or penalties.

In addition, the Committee will focus on the role of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in agency rulemakings to ensure that it carries out its regulatory duties in a timely and transparent manner.

Finally, the Committee will examine the impact of unfunded mandates on state and local governments, and private entities, and

explore ways to potentially enhance the effectiveness of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

HEALTH CARE AND ENTITLEMENTS

The Committee will identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government entitlement programs. The Committee will focus on problems at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in an effort to minimize the amount of taxpayer money misspent through Medicare and Medicaid.

The Committee will conduct oversight related to the budgetary and economic impact of America's entitlement programs as well as options that would increase choice in health care markets and lower the health care cost curve. The Committee will also examine the increase in federal entitlement programs, with a focus on waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement within those programs.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Specifically, the Committee will focus on bringing transparency to the federal government's increased role in health care markets, with a focus on determining the impact of policies on consumer choice and insurance premiums. The Committee will continue to closely examine regulations promulgated under new PPACA authorities, and other executive branch actions, to ensure that they are consistent with the law. Furthermore, the Committee will continue to review health care policy, procedures, and practices at the federal, state, and local level.

The Committee will also conduct oversight of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), with a focus on ensuring that FDA strikes the right balance between the availability of drugs and medical devices and patient safety. The Committee will examine the causes and effects of critical pharmaceutical drug shortages, recent increases in the price of certain generic drugs, and the policies and procedures in place to protect the public from the outbreak of dangerous or deadly diseases.

DRUG POLICY AND SAFETY

The Committee will examine specific pressing federal drug policy issues and the federal agencies that play a role in enforcing and overseeing federal drug policy. The Committee's drug policy efforts will be aimed at reducing the volume of illegal drugs available for domestic use, reducing the volume of improper access to and use of otherwise legal drugs, reviewing the collateral consequences of criminal convictions, and evaluating the agencies and offices that are tasked with handling crucial drug missions and, where necessary, recommending changes. The Committee will also consider reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

The Committee will continue to work with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the implementation of government policies and procedures, and whether taxpayer dollars are being spent efficiently.

In February 2015, the Government Accountability Office will issue its biannual High Risk report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, and abuse. The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of agencies and programs included on the High Risk list by holding hearings, meeting with agency officials responsible for included programs, and monitoring agencies' corrective plans and actions.

FINANCIAL SECTOR AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Committee will conduct oversight of the financial sector, focusing on those regulatory agencies whose failures were implicated in the financial crisis and those agencies that were created, or saw their powers expanded, by the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010. The Committee will monitor financial regulators' management, technological initiatives and rulemaking, with a view towards promoting capital formation, predictable and efficient markets, and investor and consumer protection.

The Committee will monitor the work of the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) and the Office of Financial Research (OFR), including the "systemically important financial institution" designation process.

Key topics for oversight include the need for technology-driven transparency in financial regulatory filings so that markets can quickly digest crucial information, management, and communications challenges at key agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act.

The Committee will conduct oversight of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and their regulator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). The Committee will further explore potential risks to taxpayers associated with Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and government housing policies, and will work to ensure that additional taxpayer money is spent efficiently and effectively. The Committee will also conduct oversight to ensure that FHFA is implementing policies that protect homeowners from abusive mortgage origination and servicing practices and that maximize assistance to homeowners, in accordance with federal statutes.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Reserve, including its use of non-traditional quantitative easing techniques, potential financial risks associated with its growing portfolio of assets, and the effectiveness of its regulatory procedures.

The Committee will continue to monitor the SEC's implementation of the JOBS Act and Dodd-Frank Act.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, focusing on the Bureau's management, budget, operations, rulemakings, enforcement actions, and its success in protecting consumers from improper and abusive financial products.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and review the actions it took in monitoring financial fraud with respect to third-party payment processors.

The Committee will examine consumer protection efforts across the federal government. As a part of this oversight, the Committee

will examine the regulatory and enforcement actions of the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

INSPECTORS GENERAL

In fiscal year 2013 alone, the inspector general community identified potential savings in executive branch departments and agencies totaling almost \$51.8 billion.

Continuing its work from the previous Congresses, the Committee will send letters to 72 Inspectors General to obtain data associated with open and unimplemented IG recommendations that have the potential to save billions of dollars. The Committee will use this information to identify government-wide trends and to encourage the agencies to implement the recommendations.

The Committee will also monitor and address challenges to access and independence throughout the community of federal inspectors general. The Committee will continue to highlight Congress' intent that inspectors general are entitled to receive unfettered access to information and records from their respective agencies. The Committee will also pursue legislation to make the IGs more effective.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Committee will examine federal financial management. This review will include compliance with financial management and accounting laws, as well as the security and reliability of federal financial systems. The Committee will also focus on agency efforts to reduce improper payments and achieve a clean government-wide audit.

Financial management reforms in 1990 required all federal agencies to conduct financial audits and for GAO to audit the consolidated financial statements of the federal government. To date, GAO has not been able to issue an audit opinion. In the 2014 statement, GAO identified three reasons: 1) the federal government cannot account for and reconcile intra-governmental financial activity between federal entities, 2) the Department of Treasury has not developed an effective process for preparing the consolidated statements, and 3) the Department of Defense has yet to produce auditable financial statements.

The size of DOD's budget accounts for a significant portion of the federal government's total spending and, as a result, the United States has never produced an audit of its financial statements. The Committee will focus on overseeing DOD's financial management processes and its progress towards becoming auditable.

The Committee will also continue to investigate improper payments distributed by federal agencies. Under the 2002 Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), federal agencies are required to annually review all programs and activities to identify those entities susceptible to significant improper payments. For FY 2013, improper payments totaled \$105.8 billion.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

Controlling federal government contract spending is critically important. The cost of contract spending more than doubled from FY 2001 (\$223 billion) to FY 2010 (\$540 billion). Contract spending began to decline in FY 2011 (\$539 billion) and continued to decline through FY 2013 (\$462 billion). Still, the FY 2013 contract spending total was more than double the spending in FY 2001 (\$223 billion). Despite the recent overall contracting spending trend (which is largely attributable to the overall budget and the U.S. policy to decrease the U.S. presence in Afghanistan and Iraq), challenges remain in contracting spending. The Committee will seek to ensure that controlling spending does not have a negative impact on contract oversight and administration. To that end, the Committee will investigate waste, fraud, and abuse in federal contracting.

The Committee will monitor the Administration's use of civil and criminal remedies to address wrongdoing. Transparency at the point of contract award and throughout the life cycle of the federal contract can prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. Additionally, the Committee will focus special attention on transparency relating to past performance and contract oversight concerns. The Committee will review federal contractor ethics and disclosure requirements, as well as the proper role of contracting for preferences and set-aside programs for small and disadvantaged businesses.

The Committee will conduct oversight of contracting issues associated with the transition of responsibilities from the Defense Department to the State Department in Iraq, as well as oversight of contracting in Afghanistan to prevent corruption. Finally, the Committee will focus on IT acquisition and oversight issues because far too many federal IT investments fail or incur cost overruns and schedule slippages and do not contribute to mission objectives. The executive branch has launched various initiatives to improve management of approximately \$80 billion in IT investments and the Committee will closely monitor these initiatives.

GRANT REFORM

The Committee intends to examine the efficiency, fairness, and transparency of agency grant-making processes. The Committee will examine federal efforts to reform and streamline the grant process across multiple federal agencies. The Committee will investigate allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse in the grants process within specific federal agencies and examine efforts to adopt consistent government-wide policies for grants applications and reporting. The Committee will also examine Department of Justice grants and other law enforcement assistance programs, such as the Department of Defense's 1033 program.

SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT

The federal government spends almost \$1 trillion on contracts and grants annually. Despite congressional oversight efforts, GAO has determined that there are serious weaknesses in the suspension and debarment programs of numerous agencies. This has resulted in the awarding of federal funds to companies, organizations and individuals which should have been barred from receiving such

funds, including those with criminal convictions, federal tax liabilities, or ties to terrorist organizations. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight to promote efficiency, transparency, and accountability related to suspension and debarment, to include improvements to managing the government-wide database of suspended and disbarred contractors.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Committee will review the District's use of federal education funds authorized under the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act. As part of a three-sector approach to education reform in D.C., this law authorizes funding for education improvement measures for the city's traditional and charter public schools, as well as provides scholarships to low-income students so they can attend a private school of their choice.

The Committee will examine the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). WMATA has experienced numerous problems relating to customer safety and Metrorail accidents over the past several years. While WMATA has publicly committed itself to taking the necessary steps to address operational and safety deficiencies, routine and rigorous oversight of the agency remains warranted. The Committee will specifically review the January 2015 Metro incident at L'Enfant Plaza, and will monitor WMATA's response.

CENSUS

The Committee will review the process by which the 2020 Decennial Census will be conducted, its level of accuracy, and the appropriateness of the Decennial's overall budget. The successful planning of the 2020 Decennial Census will determine the level of funding in 2018, 2019, and 2020, the years that account for most of the Census Bureau's funding. A particular focus will be placed on the Bureau's ability to successfully utilize technology to significantly reduce costs. The Committee will also review the non-decennial operations of the Census Bureau to identify opportunities for savings by improving efficiency and reducing waste. The Committee will also seek to determine if the Bureau's data collection activities are overly broad and whether they serve legitimate public interests.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND FEDERAL RECORDS

The Committee will conduct oversight of NARA's management of government records and the procedures NARA is putting in place to handle and archive records generated by new technologies, including social media. The Committee will also examine NARA's recommended procedures and agency adoption of those procedures to ensure the electronic capture and archival of records created electronically.

The Committee will examine the Presidential Library system, specifically looking at the governance of the Presidential Libraries, how the foundations interact with NARA, and how the foundations and NARA coordinate and cooperate to fulfill the mission of the Presidential Library system.

GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AND THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Current challenges facing the executive branch, coupled with the deficit, require a new approach to government. The Committee will examine the major structural and organizational issues that cause government waste and redundancy. The Committee will work to modernize the federal personnel system, and better align worker compensation with the private sector. Performance management will be part of the Committee's review. The Committee will also look to ensure the size and composition of the federal workforce is driven by critical needs. The Committee will consider reauthorization of the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Government Ethics.

The Committee will oversee implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act (GPRAMA), with particular focus on program level data. GPRAMA requires OMB to create and publish an inventory of all federal programs and associated data. In a 2014 report on OMB's program inventory, GAO found that many federal programs are not identifiable and the data is not comparable, making the program inventory nearly unusable. Usable program level data is essential for GAO to complete its work and will be necessary for effective implementation of the DATA Act.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

The United States Postal Service (USPS) lost \$5.5 billion in FY 2014 and continues to face systemic liquidity challenges as mail volume continues to decline. Additionally, USPS currently stands in default on \$22.4 billion in payments to the U.S. Treasury to fund the costs of retiree health care.

GAO added USPS's financial condition to its high-risk list in 2009 and since then has been a major proponent of reform. GAO believes that major restructuring is necessary and not doing so will increase the risk that taxpayers and the U.S. Treasury will have to provide financial relief.

Since FY 2006, USPS mail volume has declined by more than 27 percent, with the greatest decline in its most profitable product, First-Class Mail. Persistent, ongoing declines in mail volume are now projected for the foreseeable future as electronic communication increasingly supplants paper based communication. As a result of these mail volume declines, USPS has seen its annual revenue decline by \$8 billion from its peak in FY 2008 and USPS is now losing \$15 million per day. Additionally, for the first time in its history, USPS reached its statutory debt limit in September 2012.

The Committee will examine actions and plans USPS is taking to preserve universal service, avoid insolvency, improve financial management, and prevent a taxpayer bailout. The Committee will also pursue the enactment of substantive postal reform legislation, building on reform bills the Committee reported during the 112th and 113th Congresses. To assist in its efforts, the Committee will continue to work with USPS, GAO, and other postal experts.

ENERGY

The United States has become the world leader in oil and gas production. It is imperative that this administration protect this vital national resource. With this goal in mind, the Committee will examine the state of U.S. energy transportation infrastructure, particularly oil and gas pipelines. Inadequate capacity has created major bottlenecks and forced producers to transport domestic oil and gas via such inefficient means such as rail and truck. Additionally, the pipeline permitting process—involving agencies as varied as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of State, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—is a contributing factor to network incapacity.

In light of the significant changes in global oil supply, the Committee will review current U.S. policy on oil and natural gas exportation. This oversight will focus on the impacts of the current ban on crude exports and the implementation of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) export program.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Administration's efforts to regulate the practice of hydraulic fracturing, which has been regulated by the states for decades. The Committee will also conduct oversight of EPA's ongoing study of the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water.

The Committee will examine the Administration's policies toward energy production on federal lands and waters. The Committee will also examine the impacts of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process.

The Committee will also continue its broad investigation of the Department of Energy's portfolio, including, but not limited to, the Department's loan guarantee programs; the Office of Environmental Management; stockpile stewardship; and nuclear safety and disposal.

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee will continue to take an active role in overseeing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) implementation of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. The Committee will conduct oversight of these matters with a focus on consumer impact, federal interaction with state management processes, constitutionality, agency process, adequate economic analysis of proposed rules, and cumulative impact analysis. Further, the Committee will determine the impacts these rules have on the health, safety, and economic well-being of American families, job creation, and electricity generation.

The Committee will also continue to review the EPA's internal controls and workforce management. Specific areas of focus will be on time and attendance fraud, document preservation, and inspector general access.

The Committee will also continue to examine the EPA's implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard and its impact on consumers and businesses.

The Committee will also continue to monitor the Chemical Safety Board, specifically its management, information sharing with other agencies, ability to retain employees, and investigative capabilities.

PUBLIC LANDS & PUBLIC LAND AGENCIES

The federal government owns roughly 28 percent of the 2.27 billion acres of land in the United States, with the vast majority of that federal land concentrated in western states. The Committee will broadly examine federal land management with a focus on maintenance priorities, impact on states, return on investment and the impact of litigation.

The Committee will also conduct oversight on the Department of the Interior's regulatory responsibilities. The focus of this oversight will be the impact of the Department's regulatory and policy agenda and how these environmental laws affect private landowners, small businesses, and all public land users.

The Committee will generally review the public land agencies' permitting and leasing programs to ensure that citizens are being treated fairly and that federal lands are open and inviting for multiple uses. This oversight will focus on energy leasing projects, recreational permits, and the commercial permitting process.

The Committee will examine the Department's implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to ensure that listings are made with the goal of recovering species and removing them from the list. This oversight will focus on the ESA litigation process, scientific independence and integrity, cost of ESA compliance, and transparency of the listing process.

[RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 114-7]

114TH CONGRESS }
1st Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR
THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

FEBRUARY 10, 2015. Approved by the Committee on Rules

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

R E P O R T

Clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each standing Committee, not later than February 15 of the first session, to adopt an oversight plan for the 114th Congress. The oversight plan must be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration.

The following agenda constitutes the oversight plan of the Committee on Rules for the 114th Congress. It includes areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight during this Congress, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the subjects listed below.

BACKGROUND

The Committee on Rules has existed as part of the House committee structure since the First Congress, when it was established in 1789 as a select committee. The essential portion of the present

jurisdiction of the Committee is set forth in clause 1(o) of rule X, which grants the Committee jurisdiction over:

- (1) Rules and joint rules (other than those relating to the Code of Conduct) and the order of business of the House.
- (2) Recesses and final adjournments of Congress.

In addition, clause 3(j) of rule X assigns to the Committee special oversight responsibility over the congressional budget process.

The Committee on Rules has always been at the forefront of efforts to reform the processes and procedures of the House to improve the effectiveness of the institution.

The Committee also continues to play a lead role in providing recommendations for substantive changes to the rules of the House, which are adopted on the opening day of each Congress. Such changes have included streamlining the committee system to be more effective in conducting oversight and other business, ensuring the continuity of Congress in the face of man-made and natural disasters, increasing the transparency of committee and House actions, and modernizing the operations of the House.

Some of the substantive changes to House rules adopted on the opening day of the 114th Congress include:

- Updating the Truth-in-Testimony requirements for nongovernmental witnesses to disclose payments or contracts to the witness or an organization they represent originating from foreign governments in the required disclosure;
 - Requiring the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation to incorporate the macroeconomic effects of “major legislation” into the official cost estimates used for enforcing budget resolution and other rules of the House;
 - Continuing the prohibition against consideration of a concurrent resolution on the budget, or any proposed amendment to or conference report on, unless it includes specified information and estimates related to direct spending, including means-tested direct spending and nonmeans-tested direct spending;
 - Continuing the requirement for “spending reduction” accounts in appropriations bills to ensure that spending cuts can reduce the costs of appropriations bills rather than be used exclusively as offsets for additional spending;
 - Providing clarification on the procedures of the House upon receipt of Article V memorials from the States;
 - Continuing the authorization of a chair of a committee to request that the Government Accountability Office perform a duplication analysis of any bill or joint resolution referred to that committee;
 - Continuing the requirement that committee reports on bills or joint resolutions to include a statement estimating the number of directed rule-makings required by the measure; and
 - Requiring that a Ramseyer print contained in committee reports show the entire text of amended or repealed sections of statute along with proposed changes. The Committee will continue to work with the House Office of Legislative Counsel and committees to determine the steps necessary to comply with the updated rule.
- In addition to the items discussed below, the Committee will continuously monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the rules changes adopted at the beginning of this Congress.

MAJOR AREAS FOR OVERSIGHT

Budget Process Reform. The annual budget process continues to present challenges to authorizing committees, appropriations committees, and the House as a whole. In each of the last eighteen fiscal years, Congress has failed to enact some or all of the annual appropriations bills prior to the start of the new fiscal year. Over that same time period, Congress only completed action on the budget resolution by the target date three times, failed to adopt a budget resolution nine times, and, in the remaining years, adopted a budget resolution 31 days late on average. In the second session of the 111th Congress, the House and Senate not only failed to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget, but for the first time the House and Senate Budget Committees failed to even report a resolution. Congress also failed to enact even a single regular appropriations bill for fiscal year 2011. In the 112th Congress, the House passed a concurrent resolution on the budget for two consecutive years, but the Senate did not consider a budget resolution during either session of the 112th Congress.

In the 113th Congress, the House passed a concurrent resolution on the budget in both fiscal years 2014 and 2015, as well as 4 and 8 regular appropriations bills, respectively. The Senate failed to pass a single regular appropriations bill in either session while only passing a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2014. While some progress was made with the enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which reflected an agreement on discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 between the House and Senate, the Senate was unable to adopt a fiscal year 2015 budget resolution.

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the legislative budget process, the Committee will examine alternative budget processes, including the use of biennial budgeting. A two-year budget cycle could provide committees and Members much-needed flexibility and time for increased scrutiny of government programs and funding requests; however, there is the potential for unintended consequences on authorizing and appropriations committees, which should be examined further.

The Nation is facing record deficits and record levels of public debt. Congress must ensure that its processes are best structured to allow for comprehensive oversight and informed decision-making.

Macroeconomic Analysis. The American public and many in Congress continue to highlight the pressing need to reduce Federal government spending and by extension our debt. This increased focus on government spending has also led to greater interest in the cost and revenue estimates of proposed legislation. In many cases, these estimates are also used to trigger budget enforcement mechanisms.

The Committee is committed to ensuring that the most accurate and comprehensive analysis is available to Members and the public. The 114th Congress rules package provides that cost estimates for major legislation incorporate macroeconomic effects into official cost estimates. Major legislation is defined as measures that cause a gross budgetary effect in any fiscal year of the current budget

resolution that is equal to or greater than 0.25 percent of the projected GDP for that year. The analysis will continue to be performed by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation. Incorporating these impacts will improve the quality and accuracy of budget estimates. The committee will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this analysis.

Effective and Efficient Committee Jurisdiction. The Committee on Rules has always played an integral role in modernizing the rules of the House, including its rules on jurisdiction. In the 104th Congress, the House streamlined what was considered to be a bloated and ineffective committee system, abolishing three full committees (Committees on Post Office and Civil Service, the District of Columbia, and Merchant Marine and Fisheries). In the 107th Congress, the trend toward jurisdictional efficiency continued with the establishment of a new Committee on Financial Services. In the 108th Congress, the House responded to the changing security environment and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security by creating the Select Committee on Homeland Security, which became a standing committee of the House in the 109th Congress.

The House rules for the 114th Congress include two modifications to rule X. The first adds language to the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdictional statement with respect to the criminalization of conduct. Currently, the committee maintains jurisdiction over measures that create or repeal a crime, and over measures that alter criminal penalties with regard to crimes already existing in law. The rules change is intended to cover measures that alter the elements of a crime so as to criminalize new conduct, and in so doing, trigger an existing criminal penalty. This rules change is not intended to cover measures that merely supply the regulatory framework or address the regulatory underpinnings of the overall enforcement scheme.

The second modification adds language to the Committee on Appropriations' jurisdictional statement with respect to certain loan obligations and new loan guarantees with a textual reference to section 504(b) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The Committee notes that there was minimal jurisdictional conflict in the 112th and 113th Congress. In furtherance of this goal, the Committee on Rules will continue to review proposals to streamline the committee system and increase effective oversight of the Executive branch and the Federal budget during the remainder of the 114th Congress.

Impact of New Information Technologies on the House. In recent years, the House has adapted and upgraded its technological capabilities to improve efficiency, accessibility, and transparency. Members are communicating more effectively with their constituents through the use of websites, blogs, and tele-townhalls, and many Members communicate with their constituents in real time through social media applications.

Technology is also affecting the way Congress considers legislation. For example, more data and analysis is readily available to Members in the execution of their duties. Bills and committee reports are available and often searchable electronically, and the public can follow Congressional proceedings in real time through "cybercasts."

Providing real-time information allows the broader public access to the day-to-day proceedings of the House. Technology is helping bridge the gaps of time and distance to bring representative government closer to the people and Members closer to their constituents. Technology is helping to create a more orderly process and to reduce costs and bureaucracy.

The rules of the 114th Congress continue to embrace the work of the 112th and 113th Congresses with respect to electronic availability as an alternative to physical printing by the Government Publishing Office. Like any major change, this one will require oversight and adjustment as the House gains experience with the new rule and its implementation. In the 112th Congress, the House opened its portal for hosting electronic versions of text at <http://docs.house.gov>. At the beginning of the 113th Congress, the second phase of the project—the committee “repository”—came online to host electronic versions of committee documents. The House Office of Legislative Counsel, in conjunction with the Law Revision Counsel, is working on a series of electronic tools to facilitate “comparative prints” of legislation, amendments, and statutes.

H. Res. 5 (114th Congress) instructs the appropriate officers and committees to continue to advance government transparency by taking further steps to publish documents of the House in machine-readable formats.

The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of these projects and determine whether any additional rule or policy changes are necessary.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. As the House focuses its attention on creating jobs and restoring economic growth, it is critical that the Federal government not impose burdensome mandates on our nation’s job creators nor on our state and local governments.

In the 104th Congress, the 1996 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) was enacted. Among a number of provisions designed to reduce or eliminate unfunded mandates, the law requires the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to estimate the cost of unfunded public and private sector mandates. CBO cost estimates are required to be included in committee reports accompanying legislation brought to the House floor for consideration.

For fiscal year 2015, this framework requires CBO to estimate the direct mandate costs of intergovernmental mandates exceeding \$77 million and of private sector mandates exceeding \$154 million proposed in any measure reported from a committee. It also establishes a point of order against consideration of legislation that contains intergovernmental mandates with mandate costs estimated to exceed the threshold amount. In addition, Title II requires Federal administrative agencies to assess the effects on state and local governments and the private sector of proposed and final Federal rules and to prepare a written statement of estimated costs and benefits for any mandate requiring an expenditure exceeding \$100 million in any given year.

Since the 112th Congress, the House has passed several measures aimed at improving the effectiveness of UMRA. In the 114th Congress, the Committee will continue to examine the application of the procedures and enforcement mechanisms associated with

UMRA, as well as proposals for expanding the application of the law to capture indirect costs.

Health Care Reform Legislation. In March 2010, President Obama signed health care reform legislation into law (P.L. 111–148 & P.L. 111–152). The law created an Independent Payment Advisory Board and contains rules and procedures for congressional consideration of the Board’s proposals. The law also contains expedited procedures for consideration of a joint resolution for the dissolution of the Board.

Section 3(a) of H. Res. 5 (114th Congress) contained a provision that suspends the procedures for congressional consideration of IPAB proposals. The Rules Committee will use this opportunity to review necessary changes to House procedures relating to IPAB.

The Congressional Review Act of 1996. Job creation and economic growth continues to be the number one priority for the House in the 114th Congress. Part of this agenda includes a systematic review of existing Executive branch regulations that could hinder economic growth and job creation. While the House undertakes a review of existing regulations and their potential impacts on job creation and the economy, it is essential that Congress also be prepared to respond to future regulatory proposals.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) provides Congress with an opportunity to review—and stop—regulations before final implementation. Under the expedited procedures established by P.L. 104–121, if a majority of the House and Senate vote to approve a joint resolution of disapproval and the President signs it into law within 60 legislative days of the regulation’s publication in The Federal Register, the proposed regulation cannot go into effect.

In the 114th Congress, the Rules Committee may examine the CRA, and its procedures, in order to determine if the CRA can be better utilized to ensure that burdensome regulations do not impede job creation and economic growth, as well as continue to support efforts to adopt the REINS Act, which will provide for more Congressional scrutiny of major agency regulations.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee on Rules met in open session on February 10, 2015 and ordered the measure reported by voice vote, a quorum being present.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ, Pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology adopted its oversight plan on January 27, 2015 in an open hearing, with quorum present.

Attached, please find the Committee's oversight plan for the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

House Rule X sets the Committee's legislative jurisdiction while also assigning broad general oversight responsibilities (Appendix A). Rule X also assigns the Committee special oversight responsibility for "reviewing and studying, on a continuing basis, all laws, programs, and Government activities dealing with or involving non-military research and development." The Committee appreciates the special function entrusted to it and will continue to tackle troubled programs and search for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in non-military research and development programs regardless of where they may be found.

Much of the oversight work of the Committee is carried out by and through the Oversight Subcommittee. However, oversight is conducted by every Subcommittee and the full Committee. All components of the Committee take their oversight charge seriously and work cooperatively to meet the Committee's oversight responsibilities.

The Committee also routinely works with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Inspectors General (IG) of the agencies under its jurisdiction to maintain detailed awareness of the work of those offices. The Committee currently has numerous outstanding requests with the GAO. These include bipartisan requests as well as those signed by multiple Committee Chairmen with shared interests.

The Committee also works collaboratively with the National Academies of Science, the Congressional Research Service, the Office of Government Ethics, and the Office of Special Counsel, as well as various other independent investigative and oversight entities.

Oversight is commonly driven by emerging events. While the Committee will address burgeoning issues and topics as they transpire, the work contained in this plan reflects an accurate portrayal of its oversight intentions as of January, 2015.

SPACE

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Human Space Flight Program

The Committee will continue to provide oversight of NASA's human spaceflight program as it undergoes a period of uncertainty and transition following various Administration proposals. Specific attention will be paid to the feasibility of NASA's plans and priorities relative to their resources and requirements.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Commercial Space Transportation

FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) licenses commercial launch vehicles. An area of increasing interest is the emergence of a number of fledgling commercial human suborbital space flight ventures. In addition to its oversight of the FAA's AST, the Committee will examine the progress of the emerging personal space flight industry, as well as the challenges it faces.

NASA Space Science

The Committee will monitor NASA's efforts to prioritize, plan, launch, and operate space science missions within cost and schedule. Particular attention will be paid to programs that exceed cost estimates to ensure they do not adversely impact the development and launch of other missions.

FAA Research and Development (R&D) Activities

The Committee will oversee the R&D activities at the FAA to ensure that they lead to improvements in the U.S. Aerospace sector. The Committee has a particular interest in the performance of the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO), and FAA's management of its Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) program.

Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS)

The Committee will evaluate the ability, cost, safety, and reliability of commercial providers to meet NASA requirements to deliver cargo and crew to the ISS.

International Space Station (ISS) Utilization and Operation

The plans for operation and utilization of the ISS will continue to draw the Committee's attention as NASA attempts to fully utilize the unique research opportunities that the facility offers, while exclusively relying on logistical services from commercial and foreign providers. Given the significant national investment to date in the facility, Congress has directed that NASA maintain a strong research and technology program to take advantage of ISS' unique capabilities.

Aeronautics Research

An important area for oversight will be NASA's aeronautics research and development program. The Committee plans to examine NASA's ability to support the interagency effort to modernize the nation's air traffic management system, the development of unmanned aviation systems (UAS), as well as its ability to undertake important long-term R&D on aircraft safety, emissions, noise, and energy consumption—R&D that will have a significant impact on the quality of life and U.S. competitiveness in aviation.

NASA Contract and Financial Management

A perennial topic on GAO's high risk series, NASA financial management will continue to receive attention from the Committee. The Committee will also monitor NASA's contract management to ensure acquisitions are handled appropriately.

Near Earth Objects

Congress has provided guidance to NASA relating to Near Earth Objects. The Committee will continue to monitor NASA's compliance with that direction, as well as determine whether additional oversight is necessary.

Within the Space Subcommittee's jurisdiction, activities warranting further review include costs associated with cancellation of the Constellation program, NASA's approach to develop and fund a successor to the Space Shuttle, and investment in NASA launch infrastructure. NASA has not clearly articulated what types of future human space flight missions it wishes to pursue, or its rationale.

ENERGY

Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science

DOE plays a leading role in supporting basic research in the physical sciences and driving long-term innovation and economic growth. The Committee will conduct oversight of Office of Science programs to review prioritization across, and management within, its major program areas. Special attention will also be given to the cost, operation, and maintenance of DOE's existing and planned major facilities.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) R&D

The Committee will undertake efforts to improve focus, prioritization, and transparency of EERE programs, and provide close oversight to ensure that programs are managed efficiently, duplication is limited, and funding is allocated appropriately and effectively.

Nuclear Energy R&D

The Committee will provide oversight of the nation's nuclear R&D activities. DOE, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and industry stakeholders are working to advance reactor construction of new nuclear reactors. The Committee will examine how DOE R&D can best contribute to this goal through the advancement of various nuclear energy technologies.

Fossil Energy R&D

Fossil energy will remain a crucial aspect of America's energy portfolio for the foreseeable future. In the 114th Congress, the Committee will continue to ensure that fossil fuel R&D programs are appropriately focused and managed efficiently. Expected areas of oversight include coal R&D prioritization and program management and oil and gas R&D efforts.

Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E)

The Committee will undertake oversight of ARPA-E program funding and management in the 114th Congress, examining the appropriate role for and focus of ARPA-E in the context of DOE's numerous other clean energy-focused programs and activities.

DOE Loan Guarantees

Program management problems associated with past DOE loan guarantees in recent years call for greater attention by the Committee. Ensuring the program minimizes risk to taxpayers and addresses previously identified problems will be a priority in the 114th Congress.

DOE Contract Management

DOE programs have come under frequent scrutiny for contract management practices. GAO designated DOE's contract management as high-risk in 1990 and continues to identify areas of potential waste, fraud, and abuse.

ENVIRONMENT

Science and R&D at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Committee will continue to provide oversight of EPA's management of science and its use of science in the decision making process, including lab management, regulatory science, transparency, and risk assessment. In particular, the Committee will examine how to better integrate science into the Administration's regulatory decision-making process. This includes how EPA uses and manages scientific data to reach its regulatory conclusions.

Climate Research Activities

The Committee will continue to monitor the broad array of programs addressing climate change issues across the Federal government to ensure that existing programs are necessary, appropriately focused, effectively coordinated, and properly organized to prevent duplication of efforts and waste taxpayer resources.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Forecasting

The Committee will examine funding prioritization and program management challenges related to the NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in weather, particularly as they relate to severe weather events that threaten life and property.

NASA Earth Science

The Committee will monitor NASA's efforts to prioritize, plan, and implement Earth science missions within cost and schedule. Particular attention will be paid to programs that exceed cost estimates to ensure they do not adversely impact the development and launch of other NASA priorities. The Committee will also examine the impact of large increases in funding for the Earth Science Directorate relative to funding requested for other science disciplines.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH

National Science Foundation (NSF)

The Committee will continue to oversee the NSF. With the recent reauthorization of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science

(COMPETES) Act, special attention will be paid to the implementation, execution and effectiveness of these new programs.

Further, the Committee will look for ways to trim duplicative and unused programs in an effort to maximize available resources. The innovative work of the National Science Foundation is important to the economic prosperity and competitiveness of the United States. However, there are various activities within the Foundation that may go beyond the mission of the agency and require more scrutiny and potential cuts in order to ensure that federal investments in basic science remain primarily focused on research that actually benefits the Nation.

Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) K-12 Oversight

STEM education is vital to the 21st Century economy. Members of the Committee have expressed interests in improving STEM education activities from pre-K through graduate and continuing education in order to cultivate a top-notch future scientific and technical workforce, including well-qualified teachers in STEM fields. Determining the appropriate forms of federal support for these outcomes is important to the Committee.

While STEM education is critical to maintaining the scientific and technical workforce essential to our competitiveness, many duplicative, wasteful, or simply unused programs exist across a number of federal agencies and must be more closely examined and, where warranted, cut.

Academic/Industry Partnerships

The Committee will review the effectiveness and consequences of academic/industry partnerships. Agencies and universities are again debating the level of scrutiny and control that should be applied to research in light of the possible use by our adversaries of American discoveries and inventions. At the same time, industry questions the value of controls on technology sales and argues that such controls disproportionately limit American firms in competition for global sales. How to balance these competing interests remains a perennial subject for Committee oversight.

U.S. Antarctic and Arctic Programs

The U.S. has conducted operations on the Antarctic continent under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty System since 1959, and U.S. research activities in the Arctic predate that. The NSF serves as the steward for U.S. interests in Antarctica. Research in these extreme regions is a fundamental component to understanding the Earth and its systems. The future of the icebreaker fleet that provides vital logistical support for NSF activities in the harsh polar environments continues to be of concern.

NSF Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) Program

The Committee will continue to monitor and oversee NSF's MREFC program, including how priorities for projects are developed, long-term budgeting for such priorities, the management of

cooperative agreements, and decision-making with regards to ever-changing scientific community needs.

Government-wide R&D Initiatives in Emerging Fields

The Committee will continue to oversee the collaboration and interagency process associated with emerging fields such as networking and information technology, biotechnology, cybersecurity, and nanotechnology.

TECHNOLOGY

Cybersecurity

The Committee has continuously stressed the protection of the nation's cyber-infrastructure, which underpins much private and public activity. The Committee will continue to provide critical oversight of how NIST, DHS and NSF address this important topic and will be particularly interested in how federal agencies balance security mandates with the ability to allow technological development through innovation.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

The Committee will conduct program oversight for NIST, and other programs in the Department of Commerce, paying special attention to the evaluation of their alignment with and impact on industry. NIST manages a number of multi-agency manufacturing initiatives. The Committee will scrutinize these initiatives to ensure they are operating effectively and efficiently, and to ensure that they are not encroaching on areas better served by the private sector.

In another area of NIST, the Committee is aware that America's competitive position can be dramatically improved, or weakened, depending on how standards for different products and processes are developed. NIST is the only federal agency with long-term expertise in this arena, and the Committee is concerned that the cooperation on standards development across agencies is less than optimal. Furthermore, the Committee intends to review the six laboratory units of the agency to ensure they are operating effectively in preparation for reauthorizing these activities.

Advanced Technologies

The Committee will examine R&D programs to ensure that they are focused in areas that support the most promising new areas of technology, including technology in the bio, nano, energy and health sectors. Real improvements in the cost and accuracy of health care can be achieved through effective integration of information technology within the health care industry. NIST has a critical role to play in helping to develop standards and conformance testing processes that will protect patient privacy and minimize private sector waste. The Committee will also examine NIST's role in the development of the smart grid, the management of cross-agency information technology (NITRD) and nanotechnology (NNI) research programs, and measurement science underpinning the biotechnology industry.

Department of Transportation (DOT) R&D Programs

The Committee will conduct oversight with regard to implementation of MAP-21 and related surface transportation R&D programs within the federal government, with a particular focus on strategic planning, performance metrics, effectiveness and redundancy elimination.

Economic Competitiveness and Job Creation

The Committee will evaluate federal policies that enhance domestic and international competitiveness for U.S. companies, conduct oversight of federal policies that present barriers to innovation, and support policies that encourage job creation in innovative, growing economic sectors. The Committee will also conduct oversight of policies enacted by the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR), and ensure that it is focused on the most promising innovations.

Technology Transfer

The Committee will seek recommendations for continued improvements in the technology transfer incentives built into law by the Bayh-Dole Act, the Stevenson-Wydler Act, and the SBIR/STTR programs to improve America's competitiveness and innovative capacity. In addition, the Committee seeks to re-introduce the TRANSFER Act.

United States Fire Administration (USFA)

The USFA is responsible for training and education of career and volunteer firefighters and first responders across America. They also support management of several grant programs that provide equipment and support staffing for firefighters. The Committee will closely monitor the direction of these programs and the continued efforts of the USFA to ensure first responders have the necessary support and training.

Natural Hazards

The Committee has supported interagency research programs to mitigate the damage caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, windstorms, and fires by developing early warning systems and improved building and infrastructure design. The Committee will continue to evaluate programs to protect Americans from these and other hazards.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology

The Committee will continue to monitor the maturation of DHS, particularly the effectiveness and organization of the Science and Technology Directorate, and the research and technology programs associated with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

OVERSIGHT

Agency Compliance with Congressional Directives and Requests

The Committee will be vigilant in its oversight to ensure that authorization acts, appropriation acts, and other congressional directions are complied with appropriately.

NOAA Satellite Modernization

The Committee will continue its close monitoring of satellite modernization at NOAA. The restructured Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) will continue to draw the Committee's attention, as will the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites and the broader issues of research-to-operations planning and data continuity.

Agency Information Technology Security

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of agency efforts to protect information technology systems. Threats and intrusions increase as GAO and IG recommendations go unaddressed. The Committee will ensure that agencies comply with existing statutes and address outside recommendations in a timely manner.

Risk Assessment

As the number and complexity of regulations increases throughout federal and state governments, the risk assessments that inform those decisions are garnering more attention. The Committee will continue to oversee how risk assessments are developed and how they are used in the regulatory process to ensure that policies are based on the best science available.

Scientific Integrity

The Committee will continue to collect and examine allegations of intimidation of science specialists in federal agencies, suppression or revisions of scientific finding, and mischaracterization of scientific findings because of political or other pressures. The Committee's oversight will also involve the development and implementation of scientific integrity principles within the executive branch.

Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository Closure Decision

The Committee will continue to evaluate DOE's decision to close the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository.

Critical Minerals, Materials, and Isotopes

The Committee will provide oversight of materials, minerals, and isotopes that are critical to U.S. national interests. Shortages and supply concerns associated with helium-3, rare earth elements, californium-251, and plutonium-238 highlight the need to be ever vigilant in our monitoring of critical materials, minerals and isotopes.

Additional Science Activities

Pursuant to House Rule X, 3(k), the Committee will review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs and Government activities throughout the government relating to non-military research and development.

Emerging Issues

The Committee will conduct oversight of additional matters as the need arises and as provided for under House Rule X, 3(k). The Committee will also work closely with federal oversight bodies to identify and address instances of waste, fraud, abuse and mis-

management in the federal government to ensure the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

COLLABORATION

The Committee maintains a rich relationship with its Inspectors General, GAO, the National Academies of Science, the Congressional Research Service, the Office of Government Ethics, and the Office of Special Counsel, as well as various other independent investigative and oversight entities. The Committee will continue to work with those offices, relying on them to identify major mismanagement issues, using their reports in hearings, and working with the High Risk Series published by GAO to guide hearings and inquiries.

The Committee will retain its open-door policy regarding whistleblowers, whether they are contractors or government employees, and they should rest assured that we will never betray a confidence. Even if the information offered turns out not to be useful, as sometimes happens, the Committee will remain a haven for such figures and we understand the absolute necessity for citizens to feel safe in their communications with Congress.

APPENDIX A

House Rule X

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

Committees and their legislative jurisdictions

1. There shall be in the House the following standing committees, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions assigned by this clause and clauses 2, 3, and 4. All bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committees listed in this clause shall be referred to those committees, in accordance with clause 2 of rule XII, as follows:

- (p) Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.
 - (1) All energy research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories.
 - (2) Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities.
 - (3) Civil aviation research and development.
 - (4) Environmental research and development.
 - (5) Marine research.
 - (6) Commercial application of energy technology.
 - (7) National Institute of Standards and Technology, standardization of weights and measures, and the metric system.
 - (8) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
 - (9) National Space Council.
 - (10) National Science Foundation.
 - (11) National Weather Service.
 - (12) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof.
 - (13) Science scholarships.
 - (14) Scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor.

Special oversight functions

3(k) The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ AND CHAIRMAN MILLER: Pursuant to House Rule X (2)(d)(1), I am pleased to enclose a copy of the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Small Business. The enclosed document was drafted in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member and was approved, a quorum being present, by voice vote without amendment during the Committee's organizational meeting on February 12, 2015.

Sincerely yours,

STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

February 12, 2015, Approved by the Committee on Small Business

Mr. Chabot, from the Committee on Small Business, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

REPORT

Rule X, cl. 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the House requires each standing Committee to adopt an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Government Reform and House Administration not later than February 15 of the first session of the Congress. Under Rule X, the Committee has oversight authority to investigate and examine any matter affecting small business. This Report reflects that broad oversight jurisdiction.

Pursuant to Rule X, cl. 2(d)(1)(F), this oversight plan also includes proposals to cut or eliminate programs that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL ACCESS PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into Small Business Administration (SBA) and other federal agencies that provide capital to America's entrepreneurs that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Effectiveness of the capital access programs to generate jobs in the fastest growing small businesses.
- Whether lenders are meeting their goals to lend to small businesses and create jobs.
- Risk to the taxpayers of the capital access programs and if those risks are not reasonable, then elimination of those programs.
- Adequacy of SBA oversight of its lending partners to ensure that federal taxpayers are properly protected.
- Capabilities of the SBA information technology to manage the loan portfolio.
- Whether SBA rules, regulations and guidance result in transparent and reasoned decisionmaking with respect to capital access programs.
- Assessment of credit-scoring algorithms as a replacement for individual credit assessment by SBA and its lending partners.
- The exercise of discretion by SBA to create pilot programs and the risk they pose to the taxpayer and whether such authority should be curtailed or eliminated.

- Whether SBA disaster loan program and its oversight ensures that small businesses are able to revive and rebuild communities without unduly placing the federal taxpayer at risk.
- Efficacy and duplication of federal capital access programs offered by the Department of Agriculture to small businesses in rural areas.
- Utilization by small businesses of export capital programs at the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.
- Continued examination of the Small Business Lending Fund and State Small Business Credit Initiative established by Pub. L. No. 111–240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, in creating jobs and providing capital to small businesses.
- Impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 111–203, on small business access to capital.
- Implementation of crowdfunding and other provisions of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, Pub. L. No. 112–106.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus on particularly risky aspects of financial assistance programs including, but not limited to, commercial real estate refinancing, premier certified lenders, participating security small business investment companies, small business lending companies, express lenders, and loan programs utilizing simplified lending applications.

OVERSIGHT OF SBA AND OTHER FEDERAL ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the SBA programs that provide training and advice to small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Examining effectiveness of SBA entrepreneurial development programs in creating jobs at startups and traditional firms.
- Determining whether certain programs should be eliminated as a result of their ineffectiveness or duplication of programs provided by other agencies or by the private sector.
- Suggesting methods for enhancing coordination among federal agencies in providing assistance to entrepreneurs, including, but not limited to, businesses located in rural areas and those seeking to provide goods and services in the federal procurement marketplace.
- Enhancing the efficacy and utilization of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at the Department of Commerce, including developments in renewable energy.
- Recommending improvements in assistance to small businesses in rural areas, including those involved in agriculture, forestry, and energy production.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING MATTERS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal procurement system that may include any or all of the fol-

lowing, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Whether fraud or other problems exist in the federal government contracting programs overseen by the SBA including the 8(a), HUBZone, service-disabled veteran, women-owned contracting, and Small Business Innovation Research programs.
- Effectiveness of SBA contracting programs to increase participation by small businesses in federal procurement.
- Effectiveness of federal agency protections against contract bundling and consolidation.
- The accuracy and utility of SBA size standards and federal procurement databases.
- Operation and effectiveness of federal agency assistance provided to small businesses interested in federal procurement, including that provided by the SBA, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- Development of federal acquisition policies and whether small businesses have sufficiently effective voice in development of such policies.
- Cost-effectiveness of outsourcing government work to private enterprise rather than expanding the government to do provide the good or service internally (i.e., government insourcing).
- Implementation and efficacy of changes made in small business federal procurement programs arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Acts for FYs 2012–2015.
- Examination of the Small Business Innovation Research Program as modified by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012, Pub. L. No. 112–81, including, but not limited to, increased efforts at commercializing federally-funded technology.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus its efforts on uncovering abuse and misuse of the small business designation to obtain federal government contracts.

OVERSIGHT OF SBA MANAGEMENT

The Committee will conduct the hearings and investigations into the management of the SBA that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The appropriate mission of the SBA.
- Whether agency employees in the field are empowered to assist small businesses.
- Duplication of offices and missions at SBA headquarters.
- Effectiveness of personnel management to ensure that employees are rewarded for assisting small businesses.
- Capabilities of SBA employees to provide proper assistance to small business owners.
- Agency personnel capabilities to properly manage loan defaults to maximize recovery of collateral.

- Whether SBA improperly utilizes statutory authority to create untested initiatives and the procedures by which the agency develops such programs.

In carrying out this oversight, the Committee will focus particularly on streamlining and reorganizing of the agency's operations to provide maximum assistance to small business owners. Offices that primarily provide assistance or advice to headquarters staff that do not promote the interests of small businesses or protect the federal government as a guarantor of loans will be recommended for cuts or elimination. For some potential offices that the Committee will examine, refer to the section titled "Reductions in Programs and Spending."

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL REGULATORY AND PAPERWORK BURDENS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into unnecessary, burdensome, and duplicative federal rules, reporting and recordkeeping requirements affecting small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- Consumer Safety Products Commission.
- Department of Agriculture.
- Department of Energy, particularly the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
- Department of Interior, particularly the Bureau of Land Management and Minerals Management Service.
- Department of Labor, particularly the Occupation Safety and Health Administration.
- Department of Homeland Security, particularly the Transportation Security Administration.
- Department of Transportation, particularly the Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
- Environmental Protection Agency.
- Federal Communications Commission.
- Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council and its constituent agencies.
- Food and Drug Administration.
- Office of Federal Procurement Policy.
- Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Committee will identify specific rules and regulations already issued or at the proposed rule stage to assess the impact on small businesses. The Committee will pay close attention to the effect that regulations have on the implementation of advanced technologies including, but not limited to, the deployment of broadband communications (either by wireline or wireless services) throughout the United States. Oversight of the regulatory process also will, to the extent relevant, examine the work of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget. Special attention will be paid to the work performed by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the United States Small Business Administration to ensure that Office is fulfilling its mission to advocate vigorously on behalf of America's small business owners in regu-

latory matters at federal agencies. Finally, this oversight will entail an examination of compliance by federal agencies with amendments to Executive Order 12,866 and memoranda on regulatory flexibility and regulatory compliance issued by the President on January 18, 2011 and still in effect as of the approval of this Oversight Plan.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL TAX POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal tax code, its impact on small business, and Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) collection of taxes that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Identification of tax code provisions that hinder the ability of small businesses to create jobs and recommendations for modifying those provisions to boost small business job growth.
- Examination of the structure of the tax code in order to simplify compliance for small businesses.
- Assessment of the recordkeeping and reporting requirements associated with tax compliance and suggestions for reducing such burdens on small businesses.
- Evaluation of the estate tax provisions to determine whether they inhibit the ability of successive generations to maintain successful job creating enterprises.
- Efficiencies at the IRS that improve the interaction between the government and small business owners.
- Inefficiencies at the IRS that force small businesses to divert capital from job growth to tax compliance.

OVERSIGHT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into federal health care policy (such as Medicare and Medicaid) and the continued implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The cost of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to small businesses, including the self-employed.
- The impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid on the ability of physicians, pharmacists, and allied health care providers to offer the best care possible to patients.
- The impact of state tort and insurance laws on the cost of medical care.
- Examination of increases in efficiencies that will improve the provision of health care while reducing costs to small businesses that offer their workers health insurance.

OVERSIGHT OF ENERGY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into energy policy to reduce the cost of energy and increase energy independence that may include any or all of the following, as well as

matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Innovations developed by small businesses that create greater energy independence.
- Federal regulatory policies that increase dependence on foreign sources of energy.
- Policies needed to incentivize production of energy in the United States.
- Examination of commercialization of research in renewable energy.
- Federal regulations or policies that increase energy costs for small businesses.

The primary thrust of the Committee's efforts will focus on efforts to use the innovation of America's entrepreneurs to fuel the drive for greater energy independence, including the development of renewable energy products.

OVERSIGHT OF TRADE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into international trade and intellectual property policies of America and its trading partners that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Impact of free trade agreements to increase exports by American small businesses.
- Whether the federal government is doing enough to protect the intellectual property rights of small businesses by foreign competitors.
- The impact of federal intellectual property policies, particularly patents and copyrights, to protect the innovations of American entrepreneurs.
- Efforts to increase exports by small businesses.
- Whether the United States Trade Representative and Department of Commerce sufficiently protect the interests of small businesses in the negotiation of free trade agreements.
- Whether the United States Trade Representative takes positions at the World Trade Organization that sufficiently promote the interests of American small businesses.

The focus of oversight will emphasize the best mechanisms to promote and protect advanced technology innovations of small businesses.

REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND SPENDING

In addition to the programs and policies already cited, the Committee will examine any and all offices and programs that fall within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction to find areas that could lead to reduction in the federal deficit. Some programs and offices may include:

- State Small Business Credit Initiative operated by Department of Treasury.
- Express Loan Program overseen by SBA.
- Emerging Leaders Initiative started by SBA.
- Clusters Program initiated by the SBA.

- Innovation and Impact Fund Pilot Programs operated by the SBA.
- SBA Office of Policy.
- SBA Regional Administrators.
- Office of Advocacy Regional Advocates.
- SBA Deputy District Directors.
- SBA Office of International Trade.
- SBA Office of Native American Affairs.

In particular, the Committee will assess whether reorganization and reassignment of employees to more critical functions at the SBA, such as positions in the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development will provide a more effective agency at assisting small businesses generate growth.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 114th Congress. On January 27, 2015, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session and adopted this Oversight Plan by voice vote with a quorum present.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

In accordance with Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for determining whether laws and programs within its jurisdiction are being implemented according to Congressional intent and whether they should be continued, changed, or eliminated. In the 114th Congress, the Committee will review the activities of government agencies and entities within its jurisdiction and the public and private interests they affect or regulate. As appropriate, the Committee will investigate ways to improve the overall performance and operation of the agencies and entities it oversees, promote reform and cost savings, and eliminate fraud, wasteful spending, abuse and mismanagement where possible.

The oversight and investigation functions are vested at the Full Committee level. Oversight and investigation activities will be coordinated between the Full Committee and the Subcommittees. This structure will facilitate oversight of issues that cut across the jurisdiction of several Subcommittees. The Committee will continue to exercise its oversight duties through its own staff as well as through work performed at the Committee's request by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the various Inspectors General within their respective agencies and departments. Oversight activities will include hearings, briefings, correspondence, reports, media releases, and public statements.

The GAO provides Congress a biennial update on its High Risk Program, which identifies Federal programs and operations that it considers to be at high risk for waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, or in need of broad reform. Consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will hold hearings on the programs within the Committee's jurisdiction on GAO's "high-risk" list. The rules also require the Committee to hold at least one hearing every 120 days on "waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize." These hearings will focus on "the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement," as documented by any report that the Committee has received from an Inspector General or GAO. Finally, the Committee will hold hearings if any agency has received disclaimers on its agency financial statements.

The Committee has identified several particular areas for oversight and investigation in the 114th Congress. These areas are organized by Subcommittee and discussed below:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

1. Implementation of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. The "FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012" (FMRA) was signed into law on February 14, 2012. The FMRA authorizes funding for and reforms and revises the safety programs,

air traffic control modernization (NextGen) efforts, and operations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through fiscal year 2015. This law also contains over 100 deadlines for Federal government action, including: rulemakings, program implementations, plans, studies and task force actions. The Subcommittee will continue to closely oversee the FAA's efforts to implement the mandates contained in the FMRA and to improve aviation safety.

2. Safety Programs. The Subcommittee has held numerous safety hearings and will continue its oversight. Maintaining a safe and efficient aviation system is critical to the aviation industry, passengers, the U.S. economy, job creation, and U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. Issues to be addressed include: regional airline safety, general aviation safety, key safety treaties, the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), pilot and controller training, ways to reduce losses of separation between aircraft, the FAA's enforcement and certification activities, and the FAA's voluntary reporting and data sharing and assessment programs.

3. National Transportation Safety Board. Authorization for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) expired in 2008. A reauthorization bill passed the House in 2010 but was not enacted. Reauthorization of the NTSB may be considered in the 114th Congress.

4. Oversight of the Office of the Secretary. The Office of the Secretary within the Department of Transportation (DOT) inherited several aviation functions when the Civil Aeronautics Board was abolished. These functions include ensuring that air carriers do not engage in unfair and deceptive practices that could harm consumers and ensuring that business agreements among air carriers do not result in harmful effects. Many of these functions have a dramatic impact on the industry, competition, and job creation. Hearings may be held to evaluate various DOT programs and policies affecting aviation, including slots, essential air service, air carrier alliances, aviation consumer issues, international air service, key safety treaties, and the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme.

5. Oversight of the Commercial Space Industry. The mission of the Office of the FAA's Commercial Space Transportation is to ensure protection of the public, property, and the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States during commercial launch or reentry activities, and to encourage, facilitate, and promote U.S. commercial space transportation. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the status and future of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry and the role of the FAA in providing safety oversight of the industry.

6. Evaluation of FAA's NextGen Air Traffic Control Modernization. Since the early 1980's, the FAA has been working to modernize the air traffic control system and is implementing the Next Generation Air Transportation (NextGen). FAA states that NextGen will result in greater airspace system efficiency; reduced noise exposure; reduced emissions and fuel burn; improved safety; increased accuracy and reliability in equipment and software used for navigation and air traffic control; and the capability for future computer enhancements. Over the years, the FAA's NextGen ef-

forts have often been behind schedule and over budget. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor and examine the FAA's efforts to establish performance metrics, meet deadlines, stay within budget, ensure an appropriate level of aircraft equipage with NextGen avionics, and streamline implementation of the NextGen program.

7. Airline Financial Position and Customer Service. Much of the last decade has been a difficult one for the airline industry. The cumulative impacts of 9/11, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, spikes in fuel prices, and the global recession have taken their toll, although the industry has been profitable over the last few years. Moreover, over the next decade, the FAA predicts that air traffic operations will increase. When the economy improves, passenger complaints about delays, cancellations, overbooking, customer service, and transparency in airfares and ancillary fees charged by airlines may rise again as passenger traffic rebounds. The Subcommittee will continue to examine opportunities to improve the airline industry's competitiveness, review recently established regulations to ensure the aviation system remains safe and accessible to the traveling public, and provide oversight of standards for passenger service.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

1. Coast Guard Budget. In April, 2014, the House passed H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 which authorized \$8.72 billion for the Service in each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016. On December 3, 2014, the House adopted H.R. 5769, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–281), which authorized \$8.7 billion for fiscal year 2015. The Senate companion bill to H.R. 5769 was signed into law on December 18, 2014.

In the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee will hold hearings on the President's fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budget requests and consider legislation to authorize the Coast Guard. The Subcommittee will explore ways to improve Coast Guard operations, and improvements to laws governing shipping.

2. Coast Guard Acquisition. The Coast Guard is currently undergoing a major recapitalization of its oceangoing assets. The recapitalization will replace or modernize more than 90 ships and 200 aircraft used to carry out the Service's missions beyond near coastal waters. It will also replace antiquated command, control, and communications systems. The program faces serious challenges related to schedule and budget. The longer the acquisition program drags out, the more resources are siphoned off to maintain existing assets. In many cases, those assets are at or beyond projected service life and are more difficult and expensive to maintain. The Subcommittee is concerned that delays in new asset acquisition, competing demands from shoreside infrastructure and other Coast Guard cutter capital needs, and the cost of legacy asset maintenance threaten the ability of the Service to complete this recapitalization.

In the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue to closely review the program, as well as any changes to the program which may be necessary to ensure the men and women of the Coast

Guard who risk their lives for our Nation have the best equipment possible at the best price for the taxpayer.

3. Mission Balance. The Subcommittee continues to have concerns with the Coast Guard's ability to balance funding and focus among the Service's many competing missions. Since September 11, 2001, the Coast Guard has placed increasing emphasis on the Service's homeland security efforts which have had varying effects on levels of effort among its other missions. Security-related missions such as ports, waterways, and coastal security and migrant interdiction have seen dramatic increases from pre-September 11, 2001 levels. However, resources and man-hours devoted to missions such as drug interdiction and fisheries law enforcement are well below pre-September 11, 2001 levels.

In the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Coast Guard's mission balance to ensure the Service reviews its many missions, makes decisions about which missions it cannot afford to undertake, and plan its resources allocation among its many missions appropriately.

4. Maritime Domain Awareness. The effort to know what is happening at all times on the waters of the United States and aboard the vessels that transit them is known as Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). The successful implementation of MDA is critical to maritime safety and security.

The Coast Guard relies on several new and developing technologies to assist in implementing MDA. The Subcommittee is concerned with the ability and desire of the Coast Guard to assess new technologies in order to acquire maritime domain awareness information more efficiently and accurately.

In the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the Service's, assessment, development and implementation of MDA technologies to ensure the best system is fielded in a timely manner and at the best price for the taxpayer. It will also examine the costs imposed on maritime users as part of the MDA program, and examine methods to reduce those costs.

5. Coast Guard Prevention and Response Activities. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the DEEPWATER HORIZON oil spill and the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The Coast Guard played major roles in response to both of these events. The Service was the Federal On Scene Coordinator for DEEPWATER HORIZON, and the National Incident Commander was a Coast Guard Admiral. The Service also plays a major role in the prevention of oil spills. The Service rescued more than 30,000 Louisiana residents from Katrina's flood waters. The environmental assessment and cleanup from DEEPWATER HORIZON continues and economic consequences of the spill are still being calculated.

In the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight on lessons learned in response to these crises, and on the capacity of the Coast Guard's prevention and response capabilities today. Oil spills, natural disasters, and mass migration events, all tax the Coast Guard prevention and response systems and capabilities. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on Coast Guard prevention and response programs.

6. Short Sea Shipping. Short sea shipping is the waterborne movement of commercial freight between two ports in the United

States or between ports in the United States and Canada. At the present time, the most highly developed water freight transportation systems in the United States operate on the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and the St. Lawrence Seaway and often carry agricultural products and other raw materials. However, the Maritime Administration has found these routes are carrying only about 13% of total freight tonnage in the United States. By comparison, nearly 70% of the freight tonnage transported in the United States is moved by trucks travelling across our Nation's roadways.

The revitalization of our marine highways has the potential to reduce congestion on our highways and create new maritime industry jobs for Americans. The Subcommittee will examine ways expand the use of short sea shipping in the 114th Congress.

7. Ballast Water and Incidental Discharges. Due to a 2008 Federal court decision, the discharge of ballast water and other "discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels" such as bilge water, deck wash and air conditioning condensate are now regulated by the EPA under the Clean Water Act, as well as the Coast Guard under the National Invasive Species Act and an international convention. In addition, over 25 states have put in place regulations to govern ballast water and other incidental discharges. The requirements of some of these states conflict with requirements in other states. This is severely complicating vessel operations and impeding the flow of commerce along our coast, Great Lakes, and inland rivers.

The Subcommittee will work with the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee to conduct oversight of this issue in the 114th Congress. The Subcommittee will work to set a single nationwide standard that ensures the efficient movement of maritime commerce, defends seafaring and port jobs, and protects the environment.

8. FMC and MARAD Budget. The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) and the non-defense related programs of the Maritime Administration (MARAD). The FMC is responsible for the economic regulation of waterborne foreign commerce and unfair shipping practices. MARAD oversees several programs related to defense readiness, as well as programs designed to promote and develop the domestic merchant marine industry.

The Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of the FMC and MARAD in the 114th Congress. The Subcommittee will explore ways to promote job growth in the domestic fleet while reducing costs at both agencies.

9. National Maritime Strategy. Section 603 of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 directs the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, to develop and transmit to Congress a National Maritime Strategy no later than 60 days after the date of enactment. This comprehensive strategy is to include recommendations to increase the competitiveness and use of U.S.-flag vessels in the U.S. foreign trade, enhance shipbuilding, ensure Federal agency compliance with cargo preference requirements, and increase the use of short sea shipping in the U.S.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Maritime Administration and the Coast Guard in the development and implementation of this strategy to promote the growth and expansion of economic opportunities for U.S.-flag carriers and related marine industries.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Federal Courthouses. In June of 2010, GAO issued a report on the Federal courthouse program and found that of the 33 courthouses built since 2000, there was 3.56 million square feet of extra space, costing the taxpayer \$835 million plus \$51 million annually to operate and maintain. Since that time, the Judiciary developed a new review process to identify the need for new courthouses. In 2013, the Committee requested the Judiciary to apply the new process to the courthouses on its 5-Year Courthouse Plan. The Judiciary completed the process in late 2014. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the authorization of new Federal courthouses, encourage the full implementation of courtroom sharing formulae, and place strict requirements on any proposed courthouses to minimize overbuilding and reduce costs. The Subcommittee will also closely oversee the progress made on courthouses already authorized to ensure they are constructed within the limitations placed upon them by the Committee and to ensure they stay below or within budget. The Subcommittee will also ensure that courthouse construction projects include credible judgeship projections; courtroom sharing in a robust and efficient fashion in accordance with the empirical courtroom use data collected by the Federal Judicial Center; and faithful adherence by the General Services Administration (GSA) to congressionally authorized square-footage limitations, as well as dollar limitations, when executing projects.

2. Leasing. During the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee held hearings and roundtables identifying the large number of GSA leases expiring in the next five years and examining GSA's process for addressing them. GSA currently leases 195 million rentable square feet—more than half of the GSA's total space inventory. The cost of leasing space accounts for more than half of the GSA's Federal Buildings Fund (FBF) annual expenses, totaling more than \$5.4 billion annually. Over the next five years, more than 50% of GSA's leased space will expire, creating an opportunity to significantly reduce leasing costs to the taxpayer.

In addition, in the 112th and 113th Congresses, problems with independent leasing authorities of agencies outside of GSA were made apparent. In 2010, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which has its own independent leasing authority, signed a sole-source 10-year lease for a state of the art building it later determined it did not need, binding the taxpayer to more than \$500 million. The Subcommittee conducted an investigation and held hearings that revealed serious questions about SEC's management of its space and its leasing authority. In previous years, the Committee has also found similar mismanagement by other agencies in which poor decisions on leases resulted in taxpayer dollars being wasted. And, more recently, questions about how the Department

of Veterans Affairs (VA) has used its leasing authority has resulted in VA procurement of leases for its outpatient clinics and centers through GSA's leasing authorities. Because of these ongoing issues surrounding independent leasing authorities, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of leases outside of GSA.

3. Real Property Management. The management of Federal Real Property has been on the GAO's High Risk list since 2003 due to a number of mismanagement issues including the overreliance on costly leasing to meet long-term space needs and underused or vacant space. In addition, with nearly half of GSA's assets over 50 years old, GSA has faced challenges maintaining a balanced inventory, draining Federal resources and costing more to maintain old buildings that are often inefficient. While commercial leasing may be advisable in many cases, GSA is often driven to costly operating leases when ownership may be less costly to the taxpayer. Office of Management and Budget budget scorekeeping rules are key drivers on "own vs. lease" asset decision-making. Current budget scorekeeping rules generally leave GSA with only two options for meeting the Federal Government's general purpose space needs: direct appropriations for new construction or long-term leases. In addition, with the tight budget constraints and the lack of funds for new construction, GSA has begun exploring alternative arrangements for space acquisition and redevelopment.

During the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee held roundtables on how Public-Private Partnerships could be used as alternative methods of financing space. In addition, the Committee established a Public Private Partnership Panel that explored the use of P3's across various types of infrastructure, including public buildings. The P3 Panel recommended, among other things: 1) Review and modify budgetary scoring rules for commercially-leased office space to enable operating lease treatment of long-term leases and fixed-priced, below market purchase options; and 2) Fully utilize existing lease authorities and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) budgetary scoring procedures to proceed with long-term ground lease/lease back arrangements where the Federal government retains ownership of leasehold improvements at the end of the ground-lease term.

In 2013, OMB issued a directive to agencies called "Freeze the Footprint." That directive requires agencies to reduce their amount of office and warehouse space to FY2012 levels. The Subcommittee will continue to conduct investigations and oversight of GSA's management of its real property portfolio and examine ways to ensure cost-effective choices are made. In addition, the Subcommittee will work to ensure GSA maximizes the utilization of existing space, renegotiates existing leases to reduce costs, and sells under-used or vacant properties which will generate revenue. Finally, the Subcommittee will work to ensure GSA fully utilizes its enhanced property management authority to make better use of space it retains, such as out-leasing empty Federal space to generate income for the Federal Buildings Fund and help offset costs. The Subcommittee will conduct close oversight of GSA's use of these authorities to ensure they are managed and used appropriately.

4. Capital Investment and Leasing Program (CILP). As part of the Committee's annual work to review and authorize

GSA's requests for authority to repair, alter, construct and lease property for use by Federal agencies, the Subcommittee will review each prospectus presented to the Committee and recommend approval only after the Subcommittee is satisfied that the requests are cost-effective and in the best interest of the government. The Subcommittee will work aggressively with GSA and tenant agencies to shrink the space footprint where appropriate.

5. Federal Protective Service (FPS). As a part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the Federal Protective Service was transferred from the Public Buildings Service of GSA to the Department of Homeland Security. However, responsibility for the protection of Federal buildings, generally, remains with FPS within DHS. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor and review the policies, procedures and requirements of security at public buildings.

6. Major Development Projects. The construction of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) headquarters is a multi-billion dollar Federal construction project that, when completed, will relocate much of DHS operations in the D.C. area into one campus located at the historic St. Elizabeths Hospital site in the Southeast quadrant of D.C. While the Coast Guard headquarters has been completed, additional work is planned. In addition, various DHS components remain in leased space until the phased construction is completed. The Subcommittee plans to continue close oversight of this major project and its associated leases to guard against waste, and ensure jobs are maintained and/or created accordingly throughout the project.

In addition, there are a number of other proposed major construction and development projects that utilize alternative methods of acquiring space, such as GSA's exchange authority. This includes the proposed new FBI headquarters and the redevelopment of Federal Triangle South. In addition, the redevelopment of the Old Post Office is ongoing. The Subcommittee plans to conduct close review and oversight of these major development projects, particularly examining how GSA is utilizing its exchange authority in this context.

7. Architect of the Capitol (AOC). The subcommittee will continue ongoing oversight of projects being undertaken by the Architect of the Capitol pursuant to the Master Plan for the Capitol Complex. Consistent oversight will ensure proper prioritization and cost savings.

8. Smithsonian Institution Facilities. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of projects undertaken by the Smithsonian Institution including the acquisition, construction and use of local and remote museums, research and storage facilities of the Institution. The Subcommittee will continue to ensure cost-effective solutions to the Smithsonian's space needs such as leveraging private dollars and disposal or effective reuse of underused assets. In addition, the Smithsonian is currently in the process of constructing the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Continued oversight of the construction is important to ensure the project stays within budget and on schedule.

9. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As a part of its ongoing oversight of the Kennedy Center's programs, the

Subcommittee will regularly review the construction, alteration, and modernization activities of the Kennedy Center that are conducted using Federal funds to ensure appropriate management and cost savings.

10. Emergency Management. The Subcommittee will continue to examine and evaluate the Nation's ability to prevent, prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies of all types including terrorism. In the 114th Congress, continued oversight will be needed as states continue to be impacted by and recover from prior disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy. In addition, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of FEMA's implementation of reforms and additional authorities from the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 and the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

The Subcommittee intends to initiate a comprehensive review and assessment of how Federal disaster assistance has evolved over the past several decades and its continued effectiveness. The purpose is to examine how and why disaster declarations and spending have increased, which agencies provide assistance and how that money is spent, what guidance or controls are in place for the effective use of assistance, and what the appropriate role for the Federal Government is.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

1. MAP-21 Implementation. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorized Federal surface transportation programs for the first time since 2005. Enacted in July 2012, MAP-21 represents an investment in the Nation's transportation infrastructure that translates into safer travel, more efficient commerce, faster project approval and delivery, and the creation of thousands of jobs. To inform the Members' discussion regarding drafting the next surface transportation reauthorization bill, the Subcommittee's oversight activities in the 114th Congress will continue to focus on implementation of MAP-21, specifically in the following areas: streamlining project delivery, performance and accountability, transportation planning, new starts program, transit safety oversight, public transportation emergency relief program, and research and transportation technologies activities.

2. Sustainability of Surface Transportation Programs. The Federal highway, highway safety, and public transportation programs are user-fee financed through Federal excise taxes levied on motor fuels and on various highway-related products such as tires and heavy trucks. Revenues from these user fees are deposited into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and may be used only for eligible transportation projects and activities. Current projections show that the cash balances in the HTF's Highway Account and Mass Transit Account will drop below prudent levels sometime in fiscal year 2015. The Subcommittee will monitor the status and solvency of the HTF, and its ability to fully fund the programs authorized under MAP-21 and to meet future surface transportation investment needs.

3. Regulatory Oversight.

a. Compliance, Safety, Accountability Program. On December 13, 2010, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

(FMCSA) launched its new Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) Program, which uses existing safety data collected by FMCSA and state agencies to better target enforcement activities at truck and bus companies based on crash risk, as measured by a history of safety violations. In February 2014, GAO issued a report identifying serious flaws with the methodology and data quality of the Safety Measurement System, a key component of the CSA program, and made recommendations to U.S. Department of Transportation. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the development of the CSA program.

b. Hours of Service. On December 27, 2011, FMCSA issued a final rule revising the hours of service (HOS) requirements for commercial truck drivers. The HOS rule limits a truck driver's work week to 70 hours, 11 hours of daily driving time, a maximum driving window of 14 consecutive hours, and stipulates that drivers cannot drive after working eight hours without first taking a break of at least 30 minutes. In addition, the rule requires truck drivers to take a "34-hour restart" in order to restart the clock on their work week. The "34-hour restart" provision must overlap during two periods between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The HOS rule became effective on July 1, 2013. The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 stayed the restart provisions of the HOS rule for one year, pending further study by FMCSA. The trucking industry has raised concerns that the changes are overly complex, and could potentially reduce productivity and safety. Law enforcement personnel have questioned whether the rule requires additional training for effective enforcement. In a March 31, 2014 letter to the Comptroller General of the United States, Chairman Shuster and Chairman Petri requested GAO to evaluate and report to the Committee on the validity of the key assumptions, data, and methodology used by the FMCSA in its Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA), which was completed as part of the agency's HOS rule-making. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the effectiveness and impacts of the HOS rule.

c. National Roadside Survey. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducts a national roadside survey to gather information and data about alcohol and drug impaired driving in the United States every ten years. The 2013 study drew criticism from local law enforcement agencies and individual citizens among others. Specifically, concerns were raised about whether it was clear to the public that participation in the survey was voluntary, that law enforcement personnel on scene were off-duty, and whether participants were subject to arrest. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the national roadside survey.

4. Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017 Budget Requests. The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the Administration's fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 budget requests for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, FMCSA, and NHTSA.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

1. DOT Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017 Budgets. The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 budget proposals for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Amtrak, the Surface Transportation Board, the Railroad Retirement Board, the National Mediation Board, and the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

2. Reauthorization of the Federal Railroad Administration's Rail Infrastructure Programs. The FRA administers several rail infrastructure programs, including the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan program, the High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) grant program, and the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Capital Grant (RLR) program. RRIF is a direct and guaranteed loan program for rail and rail-intermodal infrastructure projects with \$35 billion in loan authority. The HSIPR program is a consolidation of two capital grant programs authorized in the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) (P.L. 110-432)—the intercity passenger rail service grants to states, and the high-speed rail corridor development grants. These programs were appropriated a total of \$10.1 billion and many of the projects are entering into the construction phase. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of these rail infrastructure programs and the ongoing construction of projects throughout the country as grantees begin to build-out their projects.

3. Reauthorization of Amtrak. The Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 fundamentally altered the statutory status of Amtrak, a corporation, by freeing Amtrak from a variety of detailed statutory restrictions governing the company's route system, capital structure, labor relations, and corporate governance. In 2008, PRIIA established more reforms and operational improvements along with authorizing appropriations for Amtrak capital grants, operating grants, and the Amtrak Inspector General. In the 113th Congress, the Committee reported an Amtrak reauthorization bill, H.R. 5449, the "Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2014", and in the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee plans to reintroduce the reauthorization bill and move it through the legislative process. The Subcommittee will also continue to oversee Amtrak's performance and expenditure of its Federal funding to ensure taxpayers receive a return on their investment in the corporation.

4. Pipeline Safety Programs. The Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 reauthorized Federal pipeline safety programs through fiscal year 2015. It provides for enhanced safety and reliability in pipeline transportation and ensures regulatory certainty, which will help create a positive environment for job development. The legislation was enacted on January 3, 2012. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Office of Pipeline Safety at PHMSA regarding implementation of the Act. The Act is due to expire in September 2015, and the Subcommittee plans to reauthorize the program.

5. Hazardous Materials Safety Programs. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorized PHMSA's hazardous materials safety programs. MAP-21 secured regulatory reforms, enhanced hazardous materials safety and enforcement, improved training, data collection, and research. As PHMSA's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety continues implementation of MAP-21, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight on that progress. As that program was extended with the rest of MAP-21 during the 113th Congress and is due to expire in the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee plans to reauthorize the hazardous materials safety program at PHMSA as part of the MAP-21 reauthorization.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Clean Water Act and Water Infrastructure Programs. Continued improvement of water quality will likely require a combination of regulatory and nonregulatory approaches, as well as continued investment in the implementation of water quality-related and water infrastructure programs. The Subcommittee's oversight will focus on issues related to these regulatory and nonregulatory approaches and water infrastructure investment.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the implementation of various regulatory and permitting programs under the Clean Water Act (CWA), including how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) implement these programs in conjunction with the states. This includes oversight of issues involving the establishment and implementation of water quality standards, total maximum daily loads, and effluent limitations, dealing with discharges of oil or hazardous substances, permitting of point source discharges of pollutants under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, and permitting of discharges of dredged or fill materials under the CWA section 404 permit program. Oversight also will include an examination of Federal and state policies and efforts to address the presence of nutrients in waters under the CWA and other Federal statutes, science and data quality issues, and continued efforts to improve the management of combined and sanitary sewer overflows, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution.

In addition, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of wastewater treatment and water pollution control funding issues, including levels and sources of funding and management of grant and loan programs; wastewater security; and infrastructure needs.

The Subcommittee also will pursue and examine finding innovative ways to finance new and replacement of old water infrastructure projects; providing states, counties, and towns with additional tools and flexibility to address local environmental challenges; and address local affordability concerns. As part of this, oversight may include a review of the effectiveness of watershed, market, and performance-based approaches to addressing local water pollution concerns.

Further, the Subcommittee's oversight will include a review of the EPA's implementation of integrated approaches to municipal stormwater and wastewater management through EPA's integrated planning approach framework. The Subcommittee may investigate

whether non-regulatory approaches, such as water quality trading and other market-based approaches, and other innovative approaches undertaken by state and local governments, could result in improvements to the environment.

Moreover, the Subcommittee may review the implications of addressing, through traditional CWA permitting requirements, certain pollutant discharges, including discharges of pesticides, ballast water and incidental discharges from vessels, stormwater, and water transfers.

2. Army Corps of Engineers Water Resources Program. The Subcommittee will review efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization, management, and mission of the civil works program of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), including the selection, planning, and implementation of water resources projects; financing of harbor and inland waterways infrastructure, and utilization of large, medium, and small harbors; the backlog of uninitiated Corps construction projects, including prioritization of projects; asset management of projects in its operation and maintenance account, including existing and future levels of service; and efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and consistent implementation of the Agency's regulatory programs, including those pertaining to wetlands (including the scope and procedural and substantive requirements of the permitting programs) and dredging activities. The Subcommittee will review the Corps' implementation of provisions of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, including those that were intended to streamline the project planning and project delivery process.

Continued investments in our Nation's infrastructure will create jobs and support a healthy economy. The Subcommittee will focus on getting projects for the Nation built more efficiently and cost effectively, thereby more quickly delivering project benefits to the public, while ensuring compliance with existing planning and environmental laws.

The Subcommittee has initiated two studies to be carried out by GAO to review water storage pricing at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities, and cost recovery related to dam safety activities at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities.

3. EPA—Superfund/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and Brownfields. The Superfund program under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) is aimed at cleaning up land in the United States that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and poses a risk to human health and/or the environment. The Brownfields program was authorized under the Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act (which amended CERCLA). The Brownfields program is aimed at enhancing state, local, and private-sector cleanups of properties, the redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a contaminant. Unaddressed brownfields and Superfund sites drive down property values and tax revenues, pose potential human health concerns, and can deter reinvestment in cities and towns. The Brownfields program protects from Superfund liability many parties engaged in voluntary

brownfields cleanups, and supports state and local brownfields assessment and cleanup activities and state voluntary cleanup programs. The Subcommittee's oversight will focus on issues related to implementation of the Superfund and Brownfields programs.

The Subcommittee will review efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the contaminated site cleanup process and the process of assessing natural resources damages. In addition, the Subcommittee will review the liability, financing, and settlement mechanisms and procedures under the current Superfund program, including implementation of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. This will include evaluating the need for additional liability protections for innocent parties.

The Subcommittee also will review the role of the states in conducting and financing cleanups, and review the relationships among the states, EPA, and other Federal entities in implementing the Superfund and Brownfields programs. Further, the Subcommittee's oversight will include a review of ongoing Federal, state, and local efforts to revitalize brownfields, including through the implementation of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Finally, the Subcommittee will work to promote state, local, and private efforts to clean up and redevelop Superfund and brownfields sites.

4. Tennessee Valley Authority. The Subcommittee will review the management of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and its programs, including its energy program and operations in the current marketplace and the impact of TVA debt on its long-term goals.

Until mid-2006, the TVA had made significant payments on its long-term debt in an attempt to reduce its total financing obligations. Since 2006, however, TVA's debt has begun to steadily climb to levels that may place the taxpayer at risk. TVA's debt is statutorily capped at \$30 billion and at the end of fiscal year 2012 carried just over \$25 billion in total debt. The Subcommittee may initiate a review of TVA's commitment to long-term financial sustainability to lessen the risk posed to bondholders, ratepayers, and the taxpayer.

The 114th Congress may be an appropriate time to revisit TVA's debt reduction activities and variables that impact their debt reduction strategies.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

OVERSIGHT PLAN

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducts its oversight with the help of four Subcommittees: Oversight and Investigations; Economic Opportunity; Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; and Health. It is expected that oversight of the issues outlined below will be a shared responsibility of both the full Committee and the appropriate subcommittees.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

- Appeals reform—The Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) reviews benefits claims submitted by veterans who disagree with the decision made on their claim by a VA Regional Office. It currently takes over two years for BVA to reach a decision due to the backlog of claims. The process often involves a remand by BVA to the Regional Office for additional information which further lengthens the time to a final decision. The Committee will explore alternative processes and initiatives to the current system.

- VBA Training—The Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) overall training strategy continues to result in questionable outcomes. VBA recently spent about \$10 million to upgrade the skills of claims examiners. However, Committee staff attended several training sessions and spoke with participants to determine the quality of the training. Participants were nearly unanimous in their judgment that the training was of poor quality, hastily organized and inadequate in nearly all phases. The Committee will review VBA's training program beginning with initial skills training through advanced and recurrent training.

- Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims—The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) was established in 1988 and has exclusive jurisdiction over decisions made by the BVA. The Committee will conduct oversight over the operation of the Court, including the current, jurisdiction, and compensation and benefits of CAVC judges sitting on the Court compared to other Article III courts and the Federal judiciary. The Committee will make the comparison to determine whether CAVC judges are adequately compensated relative to their workloads and scope of work.

- VBMS and VBA IT Systems—The Committee will review the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and other VBA IT systems, to include inquiry into claims, future capabilities and efficiencies, prevention of government waste due to erroneous automatic payments or other system failures, and strategic planning for the paperless environment. VA has spent hundreds of millions of tax dollars to develop an information technology system to process disability benefit claims. To date, the Committee continues to re-

ceive information that the system is frequently inoperative thereby forcing claims processors to use inefficient systems designed decades ago.

- **VBA Fiduciary Program**—The Committee will review the performance of the VBA Fiduciary Program. The program is designed to provide financial security to veterans who have been determined unable to manage their VA benefit payments. Fiduciaries are designated by VA and can be a family member, a close friend, or a professional fiduciary. The review will include oversight of how fiduciaries are appointed, the Department's compliance with provisions in the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Public Law 103–159, 107 Stat. 1536) that can effectively deny veterans in the fiduciary program of the Second Amendment rights as well as fraud associated with the program.

- **Discharge and Benefits Eligibility**—The Subcommittee will review the treatment of character of discharge and subsequent effect on benefits and healthcare. The Committee is aware that many veterans receive types of discharges that deprive them of their VA benefits as well as affect their ability to hold many types of employment. These discharges are sometimes awarded due to a servicemember's performance under the stresses of PTSD and other mental health-related issues.

- **IDES Program**—the Subcommittee will conduct oversight over the Integrated Disability Examination System (IDES) program collaboration of DoD and VA, to include outcomes and timeliness. IDES is intended to begin the disability claims process while a servicemember is on active duty. The goal is to completely reach a decision on the claim by the time the servicemember is discharged or shortly thereafter.

- **National Cemeteries**—The Subcommittee will continue oversight over National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), to include each organization's mission and operation to include inquiry into matters of unclaimed remains, access, and the methodology for determining veteran satisfaction. Each of the above organizations provides a hallowed resting place for veterans. VA alone operates over 150 National Cemeteries to provide an honorable resting place for veterans and certain dependents. The Committee will look into a number of issues including poor cemetery maintenance, destruction of and misplaced grave markers, and overall management issues.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- **Effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)**—The Committee continues to be concerned about the effectiveness of the TAP program which is intended to prepare servicemembers for their return to civilian life. The Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Labor jointly manage and provide content to the five-day course that focuses on skills needed to obtain gainful employment as well as an understanding of the benefits that are available to them from VA and DoL.

- **Performance of the Veterans Employment and Training Service's State Grant program** including performance of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist/Local Veterans Employment

Representative (DVOPS and LVERs) use of employment outcome measures—The DVOPS/LVER program funds state employment service staffs who are dedicated to placing veterans in good-paying jobs. There are significant issues surrounding the inconsistent performance of this program across the states and the outcome measures used to determine performance continue to be inadequate.

- Effectiveness and outcomes of Education and Training Programs for Returning Veterans with a focus in GI Bill processing, implementing the in-state and Frye scholarship provisions in the Choice Act, and the VetSuccess on Campus program—The Post-9/11 GI bill is the most generous education program for veterans since the original WWII GI Bill. Based on the length of service, the program funds up to full tuition and fees at public institutions of higher learning and about \$19,000 per year at private institutions as well as a monthly living stipend based on the housing allowance paid to servicemembers at the rank of E-5 and the zip code of the institution. Recent changes to the program have expanded eligibility for surviving dependents and the Committee intends to determine how VA is implementing those changes as well as the performance and value of the success-on-Campus program that stations VA Vocational Rehabilitation staff on approximately 95 campuses.

- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program—The VR&E program provides education and training benefits for disabled veterans with barriers to employment. The program will fund all costs related to long and short-term education and training as well as immediate job placement services. VRE also manages the Independent Living (IL) program designed to enable the most severely injured veterans to live as independently as possible. The Committee continues to be concerned about counselor caseloads and outcomes of VRE programs. The Committee will also conduct oversight over management and overall effectiveness of the VR&E program.

- Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE)—CVE is responsible for vetting the applications of veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses wanting to participate in the program designed to increase the amount of procurement dollars spent with veteran and disabled veteran-owned small businesses. CVE's vetting program continues to approve companies that are not qualified for multiple reasons as well as disapprove qualified companies. The Committee will review CVE's performance and coordinate with the Small Business Committee to determine appropriate alternatives.

- Licensing and Credentialing Issues—The Subcommittee plans to look into efforts by states and other entities to provide appropriate licenses and credentials to qualified veterans whose military training make them eligible for such credentials or licenses. The Department of Defense spends billions of tax dollars to provide servicemembers with the skills needed to complete DoD's mission. The vast majority of those skills translate well to civilian jobs. Unfortunately, few states recognize and give credit for military training to qualify for state-licensed positions and therefore, the training provided by DoD is essentially wasted. The Committee will review states' progress toward awarding credit for military training.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

- **Implementation of Public Law 113–146, the Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014**—The Committee will thoroughly examine the actions the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has taken to ensure that the law is implemented in accordance with statutorily required timelines and Congressional intent. Last year, Committee oversight and whistleblower revelations exposed systemic access to care delays, widespread data manipulation, and failures of accountability across the VA healthcare system. These issues left some veterans waiting weeks, months, or—in some cases—years for needed VA medical appointments. As such, particular consideration will be given to the status of the Veterans Choice program created by section 101 of the law and other efforts undertaken by VA to ensure veterans receive timely and accessible medical care, whether at VA medical facilities or through non-VA providers. The Committee will begin looking at a longer term solution that fully incorporates non-VA care into the traditional VA care model, either through a restructured PC3 program or other vehicle. The Committee will also closely monitor VA's efforts to ensure that payments to non-VA providers are both accurate and timely and continue aggressive oversight of VA's efforts to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to hold VA leaders and employees accountable for actions that cause harm to veteran patients.

- **Mental Health Care Quality, Access, and Staffing**—The Committee will continue to conduct rigorous oversight of the provision of mental health care to veteran patients, particularly those at risk of suicide. On average, 22 veterans commit suicide each day—in spite of significant increases in VA's mental health and suicide prevention budget, staff, and programs over the last several years. In light of this seeming disconnect, the Committee will examine the effectiveness of VA's mental health and suicide prevention programs in reducing the prevalence of mental health issues and suicide among the veteran population. As part of this effort, the Committee will also examine the quality, availability, and efficacy of the readjustment counseling services provided through VA Vet Centers.

- **Women Veterans**—The Committee will evaluate actions needed to increase access and overcome barriers to care for women veterans. Women are the fastest growing segment of the veteran population yet research continues to indicate that VA struggles with providing women veterans with appropriate gender-specific and gender-sensitive care in a welcoming environment. In response, the Committee will examine VA's current practices and actions needed to improve the provision of care to women veterans.

- **Medical Recruitment, Retention and Staffing**—The Committee will closely examine VA's staffing, recruitment, and retention plans. VA has identified staffing shortages as a key issue impacting access to care for veteran patients. Recently, VA transmitted a plan to Congress detailing VA's intent to invest \$2.2 billion to hire approximately 9,600 new permanent medical staff. The Committee will closely monitor the use of these funds and the impact staffing increases have on access to and quality of care for veteran patients.

In light of the long-history of VA Inspector General and Government Accountability Office reports regarding deficiencies in the productivity and staffing measures used by VA medical centers and clinics, the Committee will also assess VA's methodology to identify, prioritize, and correct staffing shortages.

- **Caregiver Support**—The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the caregiver assistance programs established in Public Law 111–163, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act. The Committee recognizes and respects the valuable services caregivers provide—often to the detriment of their own emotional, physical, and financial health—to veterans in need. As such, the Committee will also continue to examine the findings and recommendation made by the Government Accountability Office and the RAND Corporation, among others, regarding how to improve caregiver programs. Notably, the Committee will also evaluate the feasibility of the expansion of the Family Caregiver Program and the requirements VA must meet to responsibly expand it to family caregivers of pre-9/11 veterans. In addition to evaluating the feasibility of the expansion of the Family Caregiver Program to pre-9/11 veterans, the Committee will also examine the feasibility of including “ill” veterans’ caregivers in the program.

- **Management of Major Medical Facility Projects and Leases**—The Committee will continue its aggressive oversight of VA’s major medical facility construction projects and leases. The Committee will also evaluate actions needed to expedite VA’s leasing projects in light of recent changes that require VA to work with the General Services Administration to execute major medical facility leases. Particular consideration will be given to the status of ongoing major medical facility construction projects in Orlando, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Denver, Colorado; and the twenty-seven major medical facility leases authorized in Public Law 113–146.

- **Organizational and Management Structure**—The Committee will closely examine the current Veterans Health Administration organizational and management structure. Last year, the Committee received testimony from the VA Inspector General that, “. . . There are several organizational issues that impeded the efficient and effective operation of [the Veterans Health Administration] and place patients at-risk of unexpected outcomes.” The Committee will thoroughly evaluate these organizational impediments to care and assess changes that may be needed to improve the provision of timely, quality care to veteran patients. VISN scope, function, and manpower requirements will be examined for possible restructuring. The Committee will also monitor VA’s efforts to increase the efficiency of medical facility operations and, ultimately, access to care for veteran patients. In addition, the Committee will also evaluate best practices utilized by private sector health care systems and their applicability to—and inclusion in—the VA healthcare system.

- **Medical and Prosthetic Research Program and Centers of Excellence**—The Committee will closely examine VA’s medical and prosthetic research program. VA’s Office of Research and Development (ORD) conducts an extensive research program that is tasked with conducting research to advance the health care provided by

VA and to the nation. Outside of ORD, VA also operates a number of Centers of Excellence across the country that conduct research on specific aspects of VA health care. The Committee will aggressively oversee the totality of VA's research programs and ensure that best practices are conducted and disseminated throughout the country.

- **Prosthetic Care and Procurement**—The Committee will continue to closely monitor and assess the provision of care to veterans requiring prosthetic devices. In 2012, VA undertook an initiative to reform prosthetics procurement practices. Under the new system, purchasing authority for prosthetics equipment above \$3,000 was transferred from prosthetics purchasing agents to contracting specialists. The Committee remains concerned that these reforms have resulted in lengthy and unacceptable delays in care for veterans in need. As such, the Committee will also examine the continuing impacts of prosthetic procurement reform and actions needed to ensure veterans—particularly those requiring high-level prosthetic devices—receive timely and responsive prosthetic care.

- **Pain Management**—The Committee will examine the increasing use of prescription medications to treat veterans experiencing acute and chronic pain. Data suggests that veterans are a particularly high-risk population for prescription misuse, substance use disorder, accidental overdose, accidents, and/or self-inflicted injury. In particular, questions were raised in the 113th Congress regarding the need for VA to provide a “higher consent” form to veterans regarding medication side effects and offering them alternative therapies to medications in order to manage their pain. Accordingly, the Committee will examine actions needed to improve pain management across the VA health care system.

- **VA Partnerships with Community Organizations**—The Committee will continue to examine the role of non-profit, faith-based, and community providers in helping veterans transitioning from active duty to civilian life and/or struggling with health or other issues. Operating outside the constraints of a Federal bureaucracy, faith-based, non-profit, community, and other nongovernmental organizations are uniquely situated to assist VA in breaking down identified barriers to care for veterans in need. Indeed, these groups are already playing a pivotal role in caring for the veterans in communities across the country every day, providing a range of services including transportation, housing, mental health counseling, crisis intervention services, scholarships, financial assistance, and workforce reintegration programs. The Committee will focus on VA's relationship with these critical community partners and further actions needed to increase and improve meaningful and effective working relationships between them and VA.

- **Homeless Veterans**—The Committee will thoroughly examine the actions VA has taken to provide homeless and at-risk veterans with appropriate housing, healthcare, and training and employment opportunities. In November 2009, then-VA Secretary Shinseki announced a Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. Since this Plan was implemented in 2010, veteran homelessness has decreased by 33 percent and VA's total medical care obligations for homeless veterans has increased to roughly \$6 billion, more than ten percent of VA's entire medical care budget. In light of the pend-

ing conclusion of the Plan and the considerable investments that have been made in support of it, the Committee will closely assess the status and sustainability of the progress made to-date to eradicate veteran homelessness. Importantly, the Committee will also work to ensure that VA's efforts regarding homeless veterans are focused not just on housing but also on the elimination of the factors underlying homelessness.

- **Toxic Exposures**—The Committee will examine VA's efforts to improve the research and treatment available to veterans who may have been exposed to toxic chemicals during their military service. Negative health effects as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals can have lifelong and generational effects on veterans and their families. In recognition of this, the Committee will assess the actions VA has taken in response to verified or suspected toxic exposure incidents and evaluate actions still needed to improve services to veterans and family members.

- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Long Term Rehabilitation**—The Committee will continue to examine the treatment provided to veterans with TBI. Identifying and implementing innovative treatment techniques to aid these veterans in their recovery has been a long-standing Committee priority. Particular consideration will be provided to overseeing the ongoing community-based brain injury residential rehabilitative care pilot program. Anecdotal evidence seems to indicate that veterans involved in the pilot program are satisfied with it and appear to experience functional gains as a result of the services they receive. In support of these initial findings, the Committee will continue to oversee the pilot as well as assess actions needed to enhance rehabilitation, quality of life, and community integration for veterans with TBI.

- **Complementary and Alternative Medicine**—The Committee will assess the availability, use, and efficacy of complementary and alternative medicine to treat veterans in need. Anecdotal evidence from veterans in complementary and alternative medicine programs indicates positive health effects and, increasingly, veterans are advocating for a variety of treatment options in addition to traditional medicine. As such, the Committee will examine how VA is incorporating complementary and alternative medicine into VA medical facilities and monitoring the effectiveness of complementary and alternative treatments for veterans with physical and mental health issues.

- **Veterans Courts**—The Committee will assess VA's Veterans Justice Outreach programs and, in particular, the role of veterans courts. Veterans with mental health, substance use, and other needs that are left untreated can sometimes become involved with the criminal justice system. The Committee will evaluate the use and effectiveness of veterans courts in assisting veterans with mental health and other needs access treatment and avoid unnecessary criminalization and incarceration.

- **Pharmacy Issues**—The Committee will examine ongoing issues with VA's pharmacy practices and formulary. The Committee will also evaluate the process through which veterans are prescribed non-formulary medications, as required, and the process through which new medications are vetted and, ultimately, provided to veteran

patients. The Committee will also oversee the use and effectiveness of VA's consolidated mail outpatient pharmacy.

- **Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)**—CHAMPVA provides health benefits to spouses and children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability. When the Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) was passed in 2010, children of these veterans were left out of the provisions allowing dependents to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26. However, within the military health program TRICARE, dependents are allowed to stay until 26, creating a potential inequity for CHAMPVA dependents. The Committee will examine the feasibility and advisability of extending the CHAMPVA program to age 26 for those who are eligible.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

- **VA Procurement and Acquisition**—the VA procurement and acquisition process has been a recurring problem area for the VA. The Committee will look into numerous allegations of inappropriate and inefficient procurement practices at the VA and work toward identifying concrete steps that VA can take to improve the procurement and acquisition process.

- **VA Major Construction**—The Committee will be undertaking a comprehensive investigation and review of VA's Major Construction program. VA's current practices may increase costs and delays in constructing facilities, as most recently evidenced at the Denver VA Medical Center project, a project where costs have skyrocketed and estimates regarding completion have stretched into the future.

- **VA Claims Process**—The Committee will be looking into the VA claims process to ensure that claims are handled quickly and fairly, including claims that are handled under an expedited process that may cut important due process corners.

- **VA Health Care Quality and Timeliness**—The Committee will continue oversight over VA health care quality concerns and issues involving delays and access. The Committee is especially concerned over staffing shortages and the effects such shortages have on health care access.

- **VA Land Use Agreements**—The Committee will review allegations of wasteful and improper VA land use lease agreements that may have an effect on health care quality and timeliness and waste taxpayer dollars.

- **Whistleblower Retaliation**—The Committee is concerned over continued allegations regarding VA retaliation against whistleblowers. The Committee will look closely into whistleblower retaliation and whether recent statements regarding zero tolerance for retaliation are being effectively followed throughout the VA system.

- **VA Mental Health Care**—The Committee will be reviewing the effectiveness and adequacy of VA's mental health efforts, including its management of psychiatric medications and suicide prevention efforts that may not provide appropriate access to care to veterans seeking mental health care. The Committee will also review the use and misuse of opioids in the treatment of mental health issues involving PTSD, TBI, and substance use addictions.

- VA Information Technology—The Committee will continue its vigorous oversight over the VA's information technology program, including the effectiveness of VA's cybersecurity efforts. The Committee will also look into VA's efforts to replace the scheduling software currently used by the Veterans Health Administration as well as efforts by VA and the Department of Defense to put into place interoperable and integrated electronic health records.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 27, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Pursuant to clause 2(d) of House rule X, I am submitting the oversight plan of the Committee on Ways and Means for the 114th Congress. The oversight plan was adopted during our Committee's organizational meeting on January 21, 2015.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 21, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight & Government Reform,
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ AND CHAIRMAN MILLER: In accordance with the requirements of clause 2 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is a list of oversight hearings and oversight-related activities that the Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittees plan to conduct during the 114th Congress.

Matters Under the Committee's Federal Budget Jurisdiction:

- **Economic and Budget Outlook.** Oversight hearings with various Administration officials to discuss current economic and budget conditions, including the long-term outlook, the state of the economy, prospects for short- and long-term growth, our economic competitiveness, private sector job creation, and limits on the public debt.

Matters Under the Committee's Tax Jurisdiction:

- **Tax Reform.** Hearings and other activities related to tax reform.

- **Priorities of the Department of the Treasury.** Hearings with the Treasury Secretary and other Administration officials to receive information regarding the Administration's tax-related priorities for the 114th Congress. Specifically, discuss and consider legislative and administrative proposals contained in the President's fiscal year 2015–2017 budgets.

- **Appropriate Tax Relief for Individuals, Families, and Employers.** Hearings and other activities regarding appropriate tax relief measures for individual taxpayers, families, and employers of all sizes.

- **Highway Trust Fund (HTF).** Oversight of the HTF and its financial condition, as well as the revenue streams that finance expenditures out of the HTF.

- **Tax Provisions Contained in the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA).** Hearings and other activities regarding various tax provisions contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111–148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–152), known collectively as the ACA. Continued oversight and other activities related to ACA tax provisions, in-

cluding especially those scheduled for implementation in 2013 or 2014, such as the individual mandate, the employer mandate, the Exchange subsidies, the medical device tax, and the 3.8 percent surtax on capital gains, dividends, and other investment income.

- **Internal Revenue Service Operations/Administration of Tax Laws.** Oversight of the major Internal Revenue Service programs, including enforcement, collection, taxpayer services, returns processing, and information systems. Continue enforcement of major operating areas of the agency to ensure the nation's tax laws are being administered in a fair and impartial manner. Consider analyses and reports provided to the Congress by the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), and the GAO. Oversight of IRS funding and staffing levels needed to provide taxpayer assistance and enforce the tax law effectively and efficiently. Evaluate tax return filing seasons, including electronic filing, and improper payments levels and fraud prevention efforts. Discuss proposed funding and staffing levels for the IRS, and legislative proposals and administrative proposals contained in the President's fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budgets. Continue investigation related to the TIGTA audit report, "Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review."

- **IRS Audit Selection Procedures.** Oversight of the processes the IRS uses to select individuals and groups for audit. Continue coordination with GAO regarding ongoing audit work assessing IRS audit selection procedures and safeguards across all IRS business units.

- **Tax-Exempt Organizations.** Oversight of Federal tax laws, regulations, and filing requirements that affect tax-exempt organizations, particularly charities and foundations. Evaluate overall IRS efforts to monitor tax-exempt organizations, identify areas of non-compliance, prevent abuse, and ensure timely disclosure to the public about tax-exempt organization activities and finances. Review IRS tax-exempt application process and agency oversight of new exempt organizations.

- **Tax Code and Tax Form Simplification.** Oversight of tax code and tax form complexity, particularly for individuals, with the goal of simplification. Review areas where taxpayers and professional return preparers have difficulty, including areas where they make the most errors, and consider solutions. Evaluate simplification of information returns to assist taxpayers in determining taxable income. Examine proposals to close the "tax gap" by simplifying compliance with our tax laws.

- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** Oversight of the refundable federal income tax credit designed to assist low to moderate income working individuals and families. Evaluate the participation and improper payment rates within the program, and IRS efforts to eliminate EITC abuse.

- **Tax Scams and Improper Payments.** Oversight of the latest tax scams and tax fraud activities with a goal of protecting taxpayers and preventing identity theft. Examine IRS initiatives and efforts to curb tax fraud and the abuse of tax credits, specifically improper payments in the administration of tax credits. Review IRS processes designed to identify and remedy identity theft.

- **Federal Excise Taxes.** Oversight review of Federal excise taxes, credits, and refunds, including the trust funds financed by these taxes.

- **Pensions and Retirement Security.** Oversight review of the financial condition, operations, and governance of the Pension Benefit Corporation (“PBGC”), including financial exposure of the PBGC.

Matters Under the Committee’s Health Jurisdiction:

- **Priorities of the Department of Health and Human Services.** Oversight hearing with the Health and Human Services Secretary to discuss priorities for the 114th Congress and concerns related to the delivery of health services and reimbursement under Medicare. Specifically, discuss and consider legislative and administrative proposals contained in the President’s fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budgets.

- **Health Provisions Contained in the “Affordable Care Act” (ACA).** Hearings and other activities regarding various health provisions contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111–148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–152), known collectively as the ACA. Continued oversight and other activities related to ACA health provisions, including its changes to the annual updates to Medicare Fee-For-Service’s payment rates, changes to Medicare Advantage’s payment rates, benefit changes to fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage, and creation of the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

- **Medicare Part A and Part B (Fee-for-Service Providers).** Oversight of the major Medicare programs to ensure efficient use of resources, quality of care, and access to providers for Medicare beneficiaries. Specific topics include: adequacy and appropriateness of provider reimbursements, including incentive payments and reforming physician payment systems; program benefits; cost sharing; workforce supply; the doctor-patient relationship; treatment of specific populations such as people with disabilities and low-income beneficiaries; quality improvement efforts; and waste, fraud, and abuse activities

- **Medicare Advantage.** Oversight of Medicare health plans, including: enrollment; reimbursements; benefit packages; quality; beneficiary choice; and recent statutory and regulatory changes affecting Medicare health plans and their enrollees.

- **Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Plans).** Oversight of the Medicare prescription drug program, including: drug pricing; benefits; beneficiary premiums and cost-sharing; beneficiary choice; impacts of recently enacted legislation and regulations and their impact on the Part D program; and access to retiree prescription drug coverage.

- **Medicare Entitlement.** Oversight of program changes on the Medicare Trust Funds; premium and copay levels; provider payments; and benefit design, and improving the program’s long-term sustainability.

- **CMS Administration.** Oversight of CMS, including issuance of regulations and their impact on Medicare beneficiaries and providers; the adequacy and use of CMS’ budget and staff; contracting

activities; communications with beneficiaries; adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act; and general agency accountability.

- **Private Health Insurance Coverage.** Oversight and review of private health coverage, including: cost, access, subsidies to purchase insurance, benefit design, coverage options, pooling mechanisms, and employer-sponsored benefits; COBRA; HCTC; health savings accounts and flexible spending arrangements; options to reduce the cost of health coverage, expand coverage, and address the rate of increase in health care costs; the impact of the ACA and related regulations on those with private insurance, the uninsured, employers, the economy, and state budgets; and adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Matters Under the Committee's Human Resources Jurisdiction:

- **Welfare Reform.** Review proposals designed to better assist low-income families in increasing their work and earnings so they can escape poverty, including by developing innovative efforts to improve cooperation between and the performance of TANF, child care, social services and multiple other benefit programs. As part of this process, ensure that programs are rigorously evaluated and held accountable for achieving measurable performance goals, including substantive work and activity requirements for adult recipients, such as the TANF program has applied since 1996 reforms. Also review opportunities to prevent duplication, overlap, and fragmentation, in order to improve the overall effectiveness of efforts to serve low-income individuals. Examine associated barriers to increasing self-sufficiency among low-income families with children, and how changes may better address the needs of adult beneficiaries who face barriers to employment.

- **Unemployment Compensation.** Provide oversight of the nation's unemployment compensation benefits and employment security systems, especially those designed to accelerate returns to work, prevent inappropriate benefit payments, and improve overpayment recovery.

- **Child Welfare.** Provide oversight of the nation's child welfare programs, including foster care, adoption assistance, and child and family service programs under Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. Review State efforts to promote adoption, strengthen family connections, and successfully address the health and educational needs of foster children, including through the implementation of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014.

- **Low-Income Disabled and Aged Individuals.** Provide oversight of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program to examine trends in the program, agency program integrity efforts, the implementation of the ABLE Act of 2014, and options to improve recipient outcomes and reduce administrative complexities in order to target program resources to those most in need. Review SSI interactions with the Social Security Disability Insurance program, as reforms required to restore the solvency of that program are considered.

Matters Under the Committee's Social Security Jurisdiction:

- **Securing the Future of Social Security.** Examine the role of Social Security benefits in ensuring retirement security for today's and future retirees, financing challenges facing Social Security, the cost to taxpayers and beneficiaries of delay in addressing those challenges, and options to strengthen Social Security, including how the program is meeting the needs of today's and tomorrow's beneficiaries.

- **Strengthening the Disability Insurance (DI) program.** Examine the effectiveness of DI benefits in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities today and the process for both determining eligibility for benefits and appealing denied applications, along with options to strengthen the program and examine how best to improve work incentives in the DI program. Additionally, examine the interactions between the DI program and the Supplemental Security Income and Medicare programs.

- **Stewardship of Social Security programs.** Provide oversight of the management, performance, and long-range strategic planning related to Social Security programs.

- **Deployment of Resources.** Oversight of the SSA's deployment of tight resources to serve the public and taxpayers, including evolving service delivery approaches, policy administration and program implementation impacts, and the SSA's role in supporting other Federal programs through interagency and data sharing agreements.

Matters Under the Committee's Trade Jurisdiction:

- **Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).** Consideration of legislation to renew Trade Promotion Authority, strengthening the role of Congress in trade negotiations by specifying Congressional negotiating objectives and directions for the Administration, establishing requirements for consultation with Congress, mandating transparency, and providing a clear framework for Congressional consideration and implementation of trade agreements.

- **Role of Trade in U.S. Job Creation.** Oversight of the role of trade in creating U.S. jobs and how to create new market access for U.S. manufactured goods, agriculture, and services.

- **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Negotiations.** Continued consultation with the Administration and U.S. Stakeholders concerning the negotiations and specify Member views on U.S. negotiating positions, with the goal of concluding a comprehensive and high-ambition agreement

- **Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Negotiations.** Continued consultation with the Administration and U.S. stakeholders concerning the negotiations and specifying Member views on U.S. negotiating positions, with the goal of concluding a comprehensive and high-ambition agreement.

- **Other Bilateral, Regional, and Plurilateral Negotiations.** Continued consultation with the Administration and U.S. stakeholders concerning the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiations, bilateral investment treaty negotiations, and other potential negotiations.

- **World Trade Organization (WTO).** Oversight of implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), expansion of the

Information Technology Agreement (ITA), and negotiations for the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA). Oversight of U.S. goals in the WTO, dispute settlement, and WTO accessions.

- **Preference Programs.** Oversight and renewal of major U.S. trade preference programs, including the Generalized System of Preferences (expired July 2013) and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (expiring September 30, 2015).

- **Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB).** Consideration of legislation concerning noncontroversial bills to eliminate or reduce duties on products not made in the United States, in accordance with bipartisan transparency guidelines and House Rules.

- **Enforcement.** Oversight of enforcement of U.S. rights and rights under trade agreements, including the WTO Agreements and bilateral and regional free trade agreements, to hold U.S. trading partners accountable. Particular oversight of continuing barriers imposed by China and India. Oversight of administration of U.S. trade remedy laws, including border enforcement. Oversight of whether the United States is in compliance with its obligations, particularly where the United States is facing retaliation.

- **Trade Sanctions.** Oversight concerning import sanctions with, among others, Iran, Russia, Cuba, North Korea, Syria, and Burma.

- **Trade Sanctions.** Oversight concerning import sanctions with, among others, Iran, Russia, Cuba, North Korea, Syria, and Burma.

- **Implemented Trade Agreements.** Oversight of implemented agreements with Colombia; Panama; Korea; Peru; Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (CAFTA-DR); Oman; Bahrain; Singapore; Chile; Australia; Morocco; Jordan; Canada and Mexico (NAFTA); and Israel.

- **Trade Adjustment Assistance.** Oversight concerning the Trade Adjustment Assistance programs for workers, firms, communities, and farmers.

- **Priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).** Oversight over USTR to evaluate priorities for the 114th Congress and the trade agenda.

- **Priorities of the United States International Trade Commission.** Oversight over the Commission concerning overall priorities and operations.

This list is not intended to be exclusive. The Committee anticipates that additional oversight hearings and activities will be scheduled as issues arise and as time permits. Also, the Committee's oversight priorities and particular concerns may change as the 114th Congress progresses over the coming two years.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.